

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION
OFFSHORE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELICOPTER LIAISON GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2007, CHC House, Kirkhill
Industrial Estate, Aberdeen

Present

Chair:	Steve Walker	HSE
Members:	Alan Veale	HCA (Observer)
	John Monaghan	HCA
	Mike Crabb	HCA
	Dave Howson	CAA
	Sarah Glover	OCA
	John Taylor	Unite, TGWU Section
	Mike Lunt	HSE
Secretary:	Phil Sumner	HSE
Guest presenter:	Richard Hambly	BP

Item 1 – Introduction/Apologies

1. Steve Walker advised that he had taken over as HLG chairman following the retirement of Rae McIntosh. He welcomed Sarah Glover who would be representing OCA on the Group.
2. Apologies had been tendered by Peter Norton (BHAB), Rab Wilson (Unite, Amicus Section), Phil Wiggs (IMCA), Kevin Payne (CAA) and Ian Evans (BROA). No response had been received from Brian Teeder (Oil and Gas UK) and John Monks (IADC).

Item 2 – Identify AOB

3. No items were identified.

Item 3 – Status of matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

ACTION 1: CAA (Kevin Payne) to produce a revised listing of the Offshore Helideck Guidelines Contents for HLG's comments.

4. Covered on the agenda.

ACTION 2: HSE to clarify the definition of NUI.

5. Covered on the agenda.

ACTION 3: HSE (Mike Lunt) to provide a view of the responsibility for imposing helideck operating limitations when helideck netting is unfit for purpose.

6. Mike Lunt advised that in HSE's view its inspectors could take enforcement action if they found the netting to be in a such a poor condition that it exposed people to risk.

7. In HCA's experience, the overall condition of helideck netting across the UKCS was improving and the guidance covering testing standards introduced by Oil and Gas UK in 2006 was being followed. However, HCA was concerned that this process could take several years to complete. There was considerable discussion about the best means of securing early improvements to helideck netting standards with the following actions agreed;

ACTION 3/1: Sarah Glover to seek information from OPITO about whether training undertaken by HLOs/HDAs covers awareness of helideck netting condition;

ACTION 3/2: HSE to consider inclusion of an article in Teashack News highlighting the actions being taken to improve helideck netting standards;

ACTION 3/3: Mike Lunt to request that inspectors ask duty holders what checks they have in place to ensure the fitness for purpose of helideck netting and report back to HLG.

Item 4 – Oil and Gas UK Aviation Seminar

8. Mike Lunt reported on the second Aviation Seminar organised by ASTG which took place on 4 June 2007. (HLG members have been notified of the availability of copies of the slides from each presentation on the Health and Safety Section of the Oil and Gas UK website at the link <http://www.oilandgasuk.co.uk/issues/health/aviationseminar07.cfm>.)

Item 5 – Presentation on the aviation aspects of Project Jigsaw

9. An excellent presentation was given by Richard Hambly, Jigsaw Project Manager, BP Logistics, covering the concept of Jigsaw, its elements, the lessons learned and future challenges following its recent implementation in BP's Marine Region 1 (covering the Lomond, ETAP and Miller installations).

Item 6 – HSE Offshore helideck inspection report

10. Mike Lunt referred members to his 2nd Progress Report previously circulated which summarised the findings of inspections of a wide range of helideck operations on 11 installations operated by 10 duty holders. HSE's conclusions are that those duty holders so far inspected appear to manage their helideck operations well and in compliance with the law. However, some issues have emerged which duty holders have been recommended to address in order to improve their helideck operations.

11. Mike Lunt is planning to resume the inspection programme soon, targeting duty holders yet to be visited. HLG members were invited to suggest particular issues to be addressed.

Item 7 – Feedback from HCA helideck inspection programme

12. John Monaghan reported that the standard of helidecks had considerably improved over recent years. The main issues being addressed at present were the safety of perimeter netting, duty holder record keeping, and the updating of helideck status lighting.

Item 8 – Update of the Offshore Helideck Design Guidelines

13. Mike Lunt outlined the approach to the review being jointly undertaken by HSE and CAA, explaining that HSE was reviewing the first five 'legislative' sections whilst CAA was addressing the technical sections from Section 6 through to Section 11. Dave Howson advised that BMT Fluid Mechanics Ltd would be reviewing Section 10, Helideck Environmental Effects, as the original author of this section; this was likely to be delayed beyond HLG's next meeting. A detailed note prepared by Kevin Payne, CAA, addressing progress towards the first revision of Sections 6 – 11 was tabled, including a revised contents list for these sections.

14. The Chairman stressed the importance of HLG's involvement in the review at key stages in the process, given its position within OIAC and its sponsorship of the original document. Mike Lunt advised that it was hoped to table a revised document for HLG's next meeting.

ACTION 4: HSE/CAA to table the updated Offshore Helideck Design Guidelines document for endorsement at HLG's next meeting.

Item 9 – Application of the definition of normally unattended installations

15. Mike Lunt advised that an installation is considered by HSE to be one which 'normally has no persons on board' if there is no planned occupancy and that the operation of the installation is not reliant upon scheduled daily visits. HCA was requested to provide more information on how widespread were the manning practices on NUIs which it was concerned about. The

Chairman advised that HLG should be consulted if there was evidence which raised issues of general concern about industry practices.

ACTION 5: HCA to provide HSE with information and examples of manning practices in relation to specific NUIs.

Item 10 – CAA Research Update

16. Dave Howson provided an update of the joint industry HSRMC research programme. A briefing note was circulated to the meeting and is attached to these minutes. John Taylor asked to be kept updated on progress in respect of Item 2 – Ditching/Water Impact – side floating helicopter + EBS specification.

Item 11 - Timing of future meetings, including possible Agenda items

17. It was agreed to hold HLG's next meeting in London on 28 November 2007. The Chairman reminded members of OIAC's decision that HLG should continue, subject to annual review by OIAC to which HLG is to report annually. Steve Walker stressed the importance of members being proactive in determining the issues that HLG should address.

18. It was agreed to include the following topics at the next meeting;

- International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST)
- HSE and HCA offshore helideck inspection programmes
- Offshore Helideck Design Guidelines update
- Research update
- Changes to ICAO Annex 14 Volume 2

19. Concluding the meeting, the Chairman thanked HCA for arranging the meeting facilities.

ACTIONS

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