

Installation maintenance

Update on HSE's project to improve installation integrity

Our project looking at maintenance management is now well into its second year, and we are on track to complete the 40 inspections planned for 2005/06.



Identified areas of good and bad performance include:

Areas of bad performance:

- Poor physical state of secondary structures including walkways, handrails and pipework supports.
- A high percentage of HVAC dampers fail to perform effectively when tested.
- Important safety related equipment which has not been adequately defined or prioritised for maintenance.

Areas of good performance:

- Reduction in excessive maintenance and inspection backlogs.
- Improved systems for managing temporary repairs.
- Routine review of maintenance targets to identify performance and trends.

What can you do?

In the last TSN we asked you to challenge managers on maintenance/integrity matters which cause you concern. HSE will feedback to you our findings after every inspection, but we want to hear from you also - so tell us.

Where to go for more information

GENERAL HSE ENQUIRIES

HSE Infoline:

Tel: 0845 345 0055, Fax: 0845 408 9566

E-mail: hseinfoline@natbrit.com

WEB-BASED INFORMATION

The HSE's Offshore safety home page at:
www.hse.gov.uk/offshore

Some useful offshore leaflets can be downloaded free from the HSE website.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We would like to know what you think of this news sheet – send your comments and ideas for future editions to:

Tea-shack News, Health and Safety Executive,
Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen AB25 3UB

E-mail: osd.tnews@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Stop press...

The new Safety Case Regulations were made on 17 November 2005 and will come into force on 6 April 2006. To prepare for the new arrangements, HSE/Industry workshops will take place in February and will include safety rep/workforce input.

Initial guidance on the new Regulations, Operations Notices 69 and 70 are on the HSE website at:
www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/notices/on_index.htm.

Health and Safety
Executive



Tea-shack News

HSE's news sheet for offshore workers

February 2006



A message from Taf Powell, Head of HSE's Offshore Division

The offshore industry and the UK Government are committed to making the UKCS the safest place to work in the world by 2010. This will help to deliver a sustainable and profitable long-term economic future, making the North Sea Offshore Industry a safe and prosperous place to work for many years to come.



Taking personal responsibility for safety is deservedly a key industry aim for 2006, but it needs to operate at all levels in all departments of every company. If this doesn't appear to be the case in your company or on your installation, talk about it with your manager or your safety rep. I wish you a really safe and prosperous year ahead.

Workforce involvement

In March last year, Tea-shack News told you about OIAC and its current priority – Workforce Involvement.

HSE has been working closely with OIAC and organisations such as Step Change, to understand the issues that face the offshore workforce. The barriers include attitudes in both management and workers that health and safety issues are someone else's responsibility. The truth is that health and safety is everyone's responsibility.

Taking responsibility for safety is not about 'looking after number one'. It's about working together to make health and safety part of the work culture on every installation.

OIAC's workforce involvement action plan, which we also told you about in March, aims to help the workforce be more involved in its own health and safety. One of the key outcomes of the action plan will be a workforce involvement 'charter'. The charter will be a living document, which means that we don't want it to sit on a shelf and be forgotten about. Look out for more information soon.

Tubular handling appraisal tool

Everyone working on the drill floor knows that handling tubulars can be dangerous. Equipment can be retrofitted to eliminate many manual handling tasks but this can add new hazards, making it difficult to assess whether the risks are properly controlled.

To help solve this problem, HSE has been working with the offshore industry and equipment manufacturers to develop a method of assessing the appropriate level of mechanisation for a drilling rig – resulting in the tubular handling appraisal tool.

The tool has been developed in a user-friendly format, and help and guidance buttons are provided to assist the user. It is available for free download from the IADC website at: www.iadc.org/committees/hse/index.html.

Health matters

Over the coming year you may get a visit from an HSE inspector talking about your health. HSE is reviewing the management systems in place to prevent workers' exposure to harmful environments through a Topic Inspection Programme. We are looking at a range of health issues including stress-induced illness, musculoskeletal disorders, hearing loss, hand-arm vibration and skin and lung disease.



How is offshore helicopter transport regulated?

Millions of helicopter flights transporting workers to and from offshore installations have taken place since the 1960s, but what are the arrangements for ensuring the safety of offshore helicopter operations?

While HSE and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) are responsible for regulating safety and work closely together on all aspects of helicopter safety, the actual achievement of safety is the responsibility of everyone, including:

- helicopter operators;
- flight crews;
- HLOs;
- installation operators;
- the offshore workforce.



HSE has published an updated leaflet describing how offshore helicopter operations are regulated. The leaflet *How offshore helicopter travel is regulated* INDG179(rev1) is available at all UK heliports and can also be viewed on the HSE website at: www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/information.htm under **Leaflets**.

Marine operations booklet

The Marine Safety Forum of which HSE is a member has produced a booklet entitled *Marine Operations for Installation Staff*. This booklet sets out common activities where the safety of offshore support vessel crews could be jeopardised. Topics covered include Bulk Hose Operation, Cargo Handling, Emergency Response and Rescue Vessels.

Free copies of the booklet will be available from heliports, ports and offshore installations.