

Offshore totally enclosed motor propelled survival craft (TEMPSC)

Offshore TEMPSC provide the secondary evacuation system for most offshore installations and are maintained in accordance with offshore regulations and international marine standards.



Several years ago, during a commissioning trial, a Norwegian installation's freefall TEMPSC was launched and suffered structural damage. This initiated extensive studies into the fitness for purpose of freefall boats both in Norway and the UK. As a result of these studies, both freefall and davit launched TEMPSC have been subject to increased scrutiny by both the regulators and industry in Norway and the UK.

All dutyholders in the UK sector with freefall TEMPSC have addressed the structural issues; though there are still issues relating to seat design, windage and deceleration where work is ongoing.

A further concern relates to TEMPSC design and passenger weight. The marine standard, which guides TEMPSC design, assumed an average passenger weight of 75 kg for the design of lifeboats. However, recent studies have indicated the average weight of UK offshore workers is higher than this. As a result, the HSE produced Information Sheet No.12/2008 www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/infosheets/is12-2008.pdf which offered general guidance about how this issue should be managed and what actions should be taken.

As a result of research into the performance of TEMPSC, HSE compiled a database to provide a UKCS-wide overview of evacuation systems. The principal objective of the database is as an analytical tool to focus inspection activities. HSE is now working with dutyholders to identify performance issues and to recommend solutions if needed.

Further information

GENERAL HSE ENQUIRIES

HSE Infoline:
Tel: 0845 345 0055 Fax: 0845 408 9566
e-mail: hse.infoline@connaught.plc.uk

WEB-BASED INFORMATION

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,
Fraser Place,
Aberdeen AB25 3UB
e-mail: osd.tnews@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Stop press...

OSD is watching closely to see if there are any lessons for the UK offshore industry following the recent tragic loss of life on the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/deepwater.htm>

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Printed and published by the Health and Safety Executive

C70 06/10



Health and Safety
Executive

Tea-shack News

HSE's news sheet for offshore workers

Issue 12 **June 2010**



Safety on ageing offshore installations

A number of offshore installations in the UK sector of the North Sea are approaching or have exceeded their original anticipated design life.

Some of these will remain operational for years to come and it is important that safety issues are properly managed.

Older installations can start to deteriorate, which raises questions about installation/asset integrity - an issue considered in some detail by HSE's key programme on asset integrity, KP3.

The management of risks in the UK's ageing offshore infrastructure is one of the subjects that HSE's Offshore Division will be looking at in future months, with work carried out to ensure that risks are properly managed, including inspections.

Inspectors will look at how dutyholders manage risks relating to asset integrity that arise from having older installations operating beyond their anticipated design life, and how processes may need to change as a result. The initiative will also involve work with the offshore industry to establish a common culture on the management of ageing installations.

Where necessary, inspectors will take enforcement action.

Corrosion study nears completion

Work is nearing completion on HSE's external corrosion management inspection project.

Inspectors identified a number of areas of good practice during the project and will publish details shortly.

During the review, evidence was also found of some offshore plant and equipment in poor physical condition and enforcement action has been taken against dutyholders, including issuing enforcement notices.

Further inspections of external corrosion will be undertaken in 2010/2011.

The final report will be published online and available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/corrosion.htm>

A note from Steve Walker, OSD's Head of Division

I want to take this opportunity to let you know that the HSE Offshore Division workplan for 2010/11 can now be viewed on our website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/busplan1011.pdf>



This plan describes the work that HSE offshore inspectors will be undertaking over the next 12 months, and indicates our proposed intervention activities in the priority areas we want the offshore industry to improve upon, such as:

Ageing Infrastructure – how effective is the management of operation of installations offshore which are past their original design life?

Leadership – how well are leaders able to demonstrate commitment to health and safety and have in place effective management and understanding of major accidents risks and their control?

Workforce Involvement and Safety Culture – how are the SI971 safety representative and safety committee regulations being applied offshore, and how well is the industry actively involving and seeking workforce involvement?

Please take the opportunity to read our workplan. It is important that you, as the workforce, understand the health and safety challenges for your industry. Your role is of significant importance in ensuring healthy and safe conditions at your offshore workplace.



Recent Workforce Events

OIAC's Workforce Involvement Group (WIG) hosted two events in Aberdeen. Both events were fully subscribed with 60 delegates (many SI971 Reps) and 10 WIG members attending each one.

Presentations on workforce initiatives in Total, Maersk, BP and the Dutch Sector were covered, but the main focus was on the Group Sessions where attendees exchanged information around barriers to good workforce engagement, examples of good practice and the effectiveness of SI971 offshore.

The need for additional training for safety representatives and a better understanding of the powers that they have come through strongly. WIG will be looking at this and other issues raised with a view to making recommendations for future improvements and more guidance.



The day was probably best summed-up by quoting from one delegate's feedback: 'very informative and instructive - would love to go again'.

In addition HSE/OSD hosted a Southern Waters Safety Focus Day in Norwich. There was a huge interest, with the 40 delegates attending representing the majority of the SNS operators and contractors.

The offshore workforce led the event and all presentations were given by safety representatives. A wealth of information was presented on the workforce safety initiatives currently going on within Perenco, Petrofac and BP in the Southern Sector.

All the delegates found the opportunity to share best practice and have open discussions with HSE around the barriers and benefits to being a safety representative really useful. As a result of the events success it is hoped that it can be hosted annually. Subjects including old accommodation, welfare, training, PTW and NUI's were identified as suitable for future consideration.