

Shared accommodation

Many of you will have heard that HSE has recently reminded offshore companies that men and women must be provided with separate accommodation for overnight stays offshore.

HSE had not recognised until it carried out a recent survey that sharing accommodation was so widespread. HSE accepts that there has been genuine confusion as to what the law requires. The requirement is contained in the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction etc) Regulations (SI 1996/913) 1996 and is taken from the European Directive [92/91/EEC] concerning minimum requirements.

The sharing of sleeping accommodation by men and women – even on different shifts – does not comply with the law and HSE has no discretion in its enforcement of this. There is agreement across the North Sea regulators on what is required by the Directive and all operators of offshore installations will be reminded about which facilities can be shared and which cannot.

Stop press...

HSE seminar on flexibles integrity management

HSE is organising an Industry Technical Seminar on flexible riser/pipeline integrity management on 27 November 2008 at the Macdonald Pittodrie House Hotel, near Inverurie. The event is focused on:

- sharing learning and experiences across the industry in relation to integrity management good practice;
- research and development areas;
- key issues from incidents involving flexibles;
- raising awareness about related standards and guidance development work.

Where to go for more information

GENERAL HSE ENQUIRIES

HSE Infoline:
Tel: 0845 345 0055 Fax: 0845 408 9566
e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com

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:

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e-mail pipelines.aberdeen@hse.gsi.gov.uk
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Please provide details of your name, company, e mail and contact telephone. Further details are available at:
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HSE's news sheet for offshore workers

Issue 8 **Nov 2008**



Leading from the top

Avoiding major incidents

The offshore industry recognises that good health and safety practice is critical to excellent business performance

Do you have confidence in your leader?

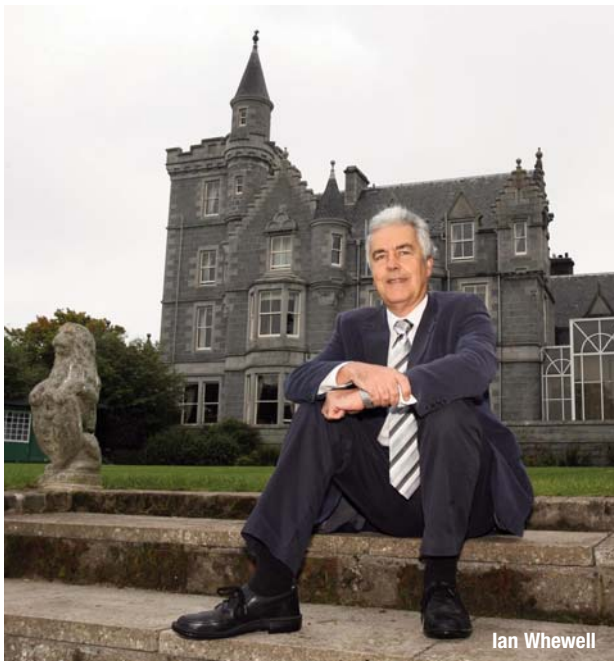
asks Ian Whewell, Head of HSE's Offshore Division

HSE has identified good leadership as vital in ensuring that major accident hazard risks are properly managed and controlled.

Leadership is one of Offshore Division's priority areas and the role of senior management in delivering the right safety culture is emphasised by inspectors at every opportunity. OSD is currently talking with the industry about what it expects to see top managers doing to safely manage their businesses.

A question I often ask of managing directors is 'How do you know your workforce is safe?' The best leaders can answer this confidently with clear explanation for this confidence.

For the safety culture to be right and major hazard and other risks to be minimised, it is essential your managers, especially your senior managers, can answer the question. Are you confident they can? Unless you are, the safety culture will not be right. Why not ask your management what it is doing to be able to confidently answer that question?



Food safety and water hygiene

Although infrequent, food poisoning incidents offshore can develop into large outbreaks and present serious health and safety risks. Offshore operators are therefore required to ensure that provisions for consumption on offshore installations are fit for human consumption, palatable and of good quality.



New Regulations on food were introduced in the UK onshore in 2007 and HSE wants to ensure that the same high standards are provided offshore. An inspection programme is planned for 2008-10. This will include visits to a representative sample of installations to ensure that food and water is of satisfactory quality and safe to eat and drink.

Minister orders review of industry progress

Installation integrity continues to be at the top of the offshore safety agenda. Following the publication by HSE of the KP3 report in November last year, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions James Purnell has ordered HSE to carry out a review of industry progress in dealing with the problems identified.

The review is underway and will be completed by April 2009. It will include a review of progress on improving workforce involvement, which is being carried out by the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee (OIAC) using its Workforce Involvement subgroup. The report on progress will be presented to ministers by June 2009 and will also be published.

Workforce Involvement Group

In May last year the Workforce Involvement Group of OIAC (the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee) ran a successful event at the Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh, attended by over 150 representatives of the offshore workforce. The theme was 'Play Your Part' in a major hazard workplace.

Two more workforce events are planned for the coming year, building on major hazard awareness and employee participation in effective health and safety management. The group will also contribute to the review, ordered by the Secretary of State, on the progress the industry is making in dealing with the issues raised by HSE's report on installation integrity (KP3). Among other things, the review will consider organised workforce involvement, including the roles of offshore workers, safety representatives and committees, and is due to be completed by next summer.



The Workforce Involvement Group (WIG) membership has expanded over the last 18 months and includes unions, trade associations and also individual workforce representatives. To ensure representation across all the workforce, we are looking for frontline supervisors to join us. If you would like more information about OIAC or workforce involvement, please go to www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/oiac/index.htm

If you are interested in becoming a supervisor representative, contact us by e-mail at oiac.secretariat@hse.gsi.gov.uk