

Examples:

- SRs identified by different coloured safety helmets
- SR training matrices
- Coaching for SRs
- Dedicated shift time made available for SR
- SR noticeboards including SR photographs
- Using all nominated SRs
- SR inspection focused on major accident hazards
- Committee meetings and pre-meetings for SRs
- SR conferences to promote sharing of practices between platforms

You should keep in mind that your safety reps have a right to see inspection letters so you should ask your SRs if your platform/dutyholder was inspected and find out about the outcome.



'Strong proactive installation SI971 reps form vital links in the offshore safety culture. Interaction with installation leadership teams allows advice, guidance and suggestions to be truly two-way.'

Mike Smith OIM (Shell)

What next?

Following publication of the report HSE will be communicating with WIG and Step Change to ensure all the guidance relating to SRs is consistent and takes note of the report findings.

Dutyholders are being encouraged to take the initiative and review their own operations on their remaining platforms.

Inspectors will continue to meet with SRs during every offshore inspection and will discuss SR involvement as well as any concerns they have.

The full report is now available to be downloaded from the HSE website (www.hse.gov.uk).

WIG links

The Workforce Involvement Group (WIG) has taken an active interest in this inspection programme. Many of the WIG areas of work are supported by the active involvement of safety representatives.

For further information about WIG see the WIG link on the HSE website. www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/oiac/wig.htm

Where to go for more information

General HSE enquiries

HSE Infoline: Tel: 0845 345 0055 Fax: 0845 408 9566
email: hse.infoline@natbrit.plc.uk

From 30 September:

For information about health and safety, visit www.hse.gov.uk/. You can view HSE guidance online and order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

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
email: osd.tnews@hse.gsi.gov.uk

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HSE's SI971 inspection programme

In our last edition of *Tea-shack News* we promised feedback on the SI971 inspection programme. The report has now been published and this 'Special' edition focuses on the findings.

Background

HSE undertook an inspection programme to check industry compliance with the provision of the SI971 Offshore Installations Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1989. The SI971 Regulations give certain regulatory powers to safety representatives (SRs).

The SI971 inspection programme was conducted over a six-month period and involved inspection activity of 25 dutyholders.

Inspection areas

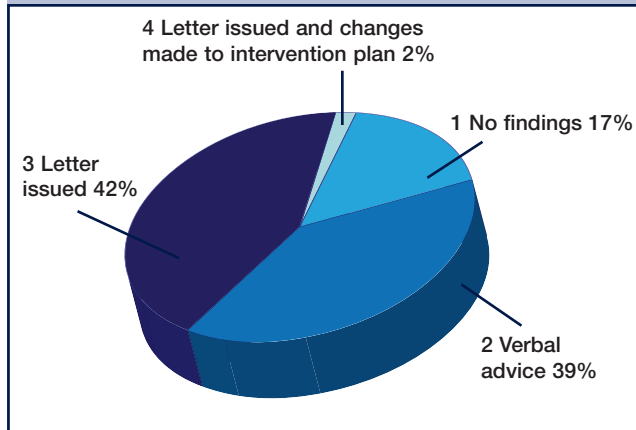
The inspections were focused into five key topic areas based on the Regulations:

- 1 Safety representatives (SRs), constituencies and election process etc
- 2 Functions and powers of safety representatives
- 3 Safety committees
- 4 Duties of installation operators and owners, and employers
- 5 Time off and training



Survey results

The results of the programme were encouraging. The majority of inspections confirmed general compliance with the Regulations and the project was successful in identifying and gaining improvements in a number of areas. Where letters were issued to gain a formal response from the dutyholder, responses have now confirmed that non-conformances are being addressed and it was not necessary to issue any Improvement Notices.



Compliance improvement advice

Problems in compliance were evident in a small number of dutyholders and tended to be in similar areas. By raising awareness about these areas, it is hoped that non-compliance can be minimised in the future.

The areas were:

- the formal requirements of the election and constituency system, including notification requirements for SRs and constituent members;
- limited consultation of SR by dutyholders;
- differences in the treatment of contractor and dutyholder SRs;
- safety committee meetings with limited scope; and
- limited use of powers by SRs.

Dutyholders are now being encouraged to review the systems in place across all their platforms to ensure full compliance.

While there is no duty on safety representatives to use the powers bestowed on them, the powers are there to ensure they can play a full and proper role in platform safety.

Feedback received following inspections was extremely positive. The programme was well received as both SRs and offshore management took the time to take a step back and refocus on the aims of the safety rep regime and its role in improving safety offshore.

The survey confirmed that there are a large number of enthusiastic and committed SRs who take their role very seriously. The role can be both interesting and gratifying where real improvements in platform safety can be achieved.



'The recent SI971 Inspection was very well received, both by the reps and management on the Sedco 704. The HSE Inspectors provided our developing committee with some excellent guidance, and this resulted in some minor improvements that will allow the reps to perform the function more effectively.'
Mikey Craig WIG rep and veteran SR (Transocean)

Innovative practices

It was encouraging to report that HSE identified numerous examples of innovative practices, many of which are very simple to implement. We hope that by sharing these good practices, real improvement, beyond simple regulatory compliance, can be achieved.