

Offshore Industry Advisory Committee		OIAC/MIN/2/2012	
Meeting date:	11 th October 2012	Open Gov. Status:	Fully open
Type of paper:	Minutes	Paper File ref:	2012/399228
Exemptions:	None		

Minutes of the meeting of the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee held on 11th October 2012 at Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen

Present:-

Chairman Steve Walker HSE, Secretariat Mike Readitt HSE, Jim Neilson HSE, Peter Mills HSE, Fraser Easton HSE, Douglas Connor HSE (observer), Nick Woollacott DECC, Adrian Lester BROA, Nick Hough IMCA, Neaz Hyder MCA, Paul Wilkins MCA, Jake Molloy RMT, Robert Paterson (Oil & Gas UK), Les Linklater Step Change, John Taylor Unite – TGWU, Gavin Sutherland IADC and Mark Cusworth Lloyds Register

Presenters:- Bruce Appleton HSE

1. Introductions

- 1.1 A warm welcome was extended to everyone, particularly the new IADC representative Gavin Sutherland and Nick Hough representing IMCA.

Apologies

- 1.2 These were received from Phil Ley OCA, Allan Graveson (Nautilus International), Jane Bugler IMCA, Brian Negus GMB, Ian Russell (COTA) and Ian Tasker STUC.
- 1.3 The Chairman informed members that Mark Robinson (Unite – Amicus) has stood down from his current position representing oil and gas members. John Taylor will temporarily stand in until a replacement is established. The Chairman on behalf of all members recorded OIAC's appreciation and thanks to Mark for his contributions to OIAC initiatives.

Outstanding Actions from previous meetings

- 1.4 The following Actions were agreed as cleared / still outstanding:-

- Action 2 March 11, Cleared:- Review the processes for halting drilling operations, addressed at agenda item 3.
- Action 4 March 11, Cleared:- Update on progress to produce generic guidance on intimidation and bullying, addressed at agenda item 4.
- Action 5 March 11, Cleared:- Progress report on the Noise, and hand arm vibration programme, addressed at agenda item 7.

- Action 1 March 12, Cleared:- Circulate the draft EC Offshore Regulation.
- Action 2 March 2012, Cleared:- Feedback the Union's concerns to the Maitland review steering group.
- Action 3 March 12, Cleared:- Record OIAC's thanks to the support provided by Dave Nicholls.
- Action 4 March 12, Withdrawn:- Carry forward Permit to Work issues to the Oct. 12 meeting. The Chairman reported there was limited progress on this subject to provide any meaningful update to members. It had been previously agreed the current PTW guidance remained fit for purpose. The Chairman confirmed Permit to work will be placed back on the OIAC agenda when further progress had been made.
- Action 5 March 12, Cleared, MCA to provide a presentation on seafaring crew training, addressed at agenda item 8.

Minutes from the meeting held on 13th March 2012

- 1.5 These had been cleared by correspondence and placed on the OIAC web site.

2. Policy Update

- 2.1 Jim Neilson provided members with a summary of the developments associated with current policy topics, these included:-

Application outside Great Britain Order (AOGBO)

- 2.2 The results of the public consultation (April – July) supported the introduction, changes and new Articles proposed within the draft Statutory Instrument. The associated Impact Assessment had been cleared by Govt. Committees and HSE's submission to ensure micro-businesses remain within scope of the Order was also supported. The Order is currently with Ministers for final approval. The Order remains on track to come into force on 6th April 2013.

Directive 92/91 Review

- 2.3 The review is being taken forward by the EC's Employment Directorate, who had engaged the verification body DNV to complete the review. Many Member States, Industry bodies and Unions have now been consulted and the results are being collated. The final report is expected towards the end of 2012. It is unlikely any amendments to the Directive will be made before 2015.

Action 1 Oct. 2012:- Jim Neilson to circulate the final report on the Directive 92/91 review when published.

EC Offshore Regulation

- 2.4 Cyprus had taken over the EC Presidency in June from Denmark and produced a draft Directive that can be compared against the draft Regulation. On the 9th Oct. ITRE (the Industry EU Parliamentary Committee) voted in favour of having a Directive rather than a Regulation. However, there still remain a number of issues for the UK which require further negotiation and clarification. It is expected that 'trilogue' negotiations will commence in November 12.
- 2.5 The Presidency will be handed over to Ireland in January 2013. It is hoped that a move to a Directive will be concluded before the end of the Irish Presidency (July 13). The implementation of a new Regulation or Directive is not expected until the end of 2015.

EU Offshore Authorities Group

- 2.6 Steve Walker reported the first meeting of this newly formed group had been held in Sept. (he is the Co-Chair), and the group will be Brussels based and funded. The first meeting focused on establishing the group's priorities, remit and function, which had been identified as providing a forum for discussion and achieving greater consistency between Member States regulators and being the main advisory body to the European Commission. The North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (NSOAF), will continue to operate in its current form as it has a wider remit, although responsibilities between the two groups may be considered in the future.

Maitland Review

- 2.7 Nick Woollacott updated members on the progress of the joint industry / regulator Maitland Review Steering Group. He reported the steering group had now provided a response to all the recommendations and a draft report had been submitted to the independent review panel for comment. The panel commented that good progress had been made in either implementing the recommendations, providing alternative routes to achieving them, or giving sound reason for not implementing them. However, there were a few areas where further information / clarification from the steering group were required. These are currently being addressed and will be reviewed at the next steering group meeting (29th Oct.). A final report will be submitted to the DECC Energy Minister in November.
- 2.8 During discussions Union representatives raised concerns they had not been involved in the drafting of the response to Maitland's recommendations regarding workforce engagement. They argued they should have been consulted on the response to the recommendations to ensure they accurately reflected practices offshore. Steve Walker confirmed he would raise this issue at the next steering group meeting.

Action 2 Oct. 2012:- Steve Walker to raise at the next Maitland review Steering Group meeting if there is scope to seek the Union's views on the workforce engagement recommendations.

3. Progress on OIAC work to take forward the Select Committee Deepwater Horizon review findings'

Best Practice Guidance to address Intimidation, Bullying and disciplinary procedures

3.1 This was covered under Item 4 – Workforce Involvement Group Update.

Review of processes to halt drilling operations

3.2 Robert Paterson reported that the Wells Life Cycle Practices Forum had for some time been producing industry guidance that addressed drilling operation activities and associated issues. He confirmed there was now a suite of guidance available to the offshore industry which can be accessed from the Oil & Gas UK web site.

4. Workforce Involvement Group (WIG) Update

4.1 Fraser Easton provided an overview of WIG's key activities and progress since the last meeting:-

Further training for safety representatives

4.2 The WIG working group had now consulted and developed a course outline for the additional training which had adopted a modular approach that covered the following topics, 'Major Accident Hazards', Risk Analysis', Root Cause Analysis' and 'Inspect / Audit / Communicate'. It is hoped the proposed initial four 'pilot' courses will be delivered towards the end of 2012. As the group were unable to secure an OPITO approved training provider to deliver the 'Pilot' courses, a number of non OPITO providers had subsequently been approached and consulted. It is expected the name of the training provider will be announced in the very near future. If the pilot training proves a success, WIG aim to have the new training standard introduced by mid 2013.

4.3 The MCA raised that there may be some overlap between the existing offshore mandatory training and the seafarer training certification and watch keeping (STCW) standards. The MCA (Neaz Hyder) was asked to identify the training accreditation issues and refer them to John Taylor, who will forward to OPITO to consider the provision of any additional training that may be necessary.

Action 3 Oct. 2012:- Neaz Hyder to inform John Taylor of the overlaps between existing offshore mandatory training and the seafarer training certification and watch keeping (STCW) standards.

Action 4 Oct. 2012:- John Taylor to approach OPITO to identify if any training provision needs to be added to existing mandatory training.

'Just Culture'

- 4.3 The ongoing work to produce industry wide 'best practice' guidance that would also incorporate issues surrounding intimidation and bullying was proving challenging. Nevertheless, this work was moving towards reviewing existing guidance e.g. 'Play your Part' – How offshore workers can improve health and safety, and to establish a set of 'Beliefs' and 'Duties', (these were outlined to members). WIG will continue to work closely with Step Change to agree a common set of values and guidance that will have generic applicability across the offshore industry and workforce.

Action 5 Oct. 2012:- Fraser Easton to develop a 'Just Culture' set of 'Beliefs' and 'Duties' to share with OIAC members at the March 2013 meeting.

Events, Meetings and Engagement

- 4.4 There had been numerous workforce engagement activities over the last six months, ranging from a workforce involvement day, a visit to the Transocean Prospect drilling rig, attendance at the Shell safety representative conference and continued close working with the Step Change Workforce Engagement Group. There has been continued publicity through HSE's 'Tea Shack' News, the WIG web site and the production of a poster to advertise the work of WIG and encourage the offshore workforce to be actively involved in health and safety matters.
- 4.5 OIAC members acknowledged the WIG activities and initiatives and supported the continuing development of the Safety Representative further training and to progress the development of the 'Just Culture' guidelines.

5. Operational Update and Health and Safety Statistics Bulletin

- 5.1 Peter Mills introduced the statistics bulletin and an overview of Offshore Division's enforcement activities. The statistics provided a summary of the fatal and major injuries, over three-day injuries, dangerous occurrences and hydrocarbon release figures over the last five years.
- 5.2 Some of the main points raised were that the fatal and major injuries had continued to fall since 2009/10 and the two fatalities in 2011/12 were the first offshore since 2006/07. The over three-day injuries continued in a downward trend, as did the dangerous occurrences and notably the decrease in significant hydrocarbon releases during 2011/12, nevertheless, it was pointed out the number of hydrocarbon releases still amounted to roughly 1 per week.
- 5.3 In relation to enforcement activity there was a noticeable reduction in the number of notices issued. During 2011/12 there had been 30 improvement notices issued, yet during the first half of 2012 (April – Sept) only 3 notices were issued. The reason for the fall in enforcement activity was attributed to the diversion of inspector resources into the 'Total Elgin' hydrocarbon release (25th March 12) and the following investigation.

- 5.4 Peter provided members with an informative presentation on the 'Elgin' release, the challenges to bring the release under control and issues that had been faced. The HSE investigation remains ongoing and the release has been classed as a major incident. The investigation will determine why the release happened, what lessons can be learned, what recommendations will come from those lessons and the appropriate enforcement action to be taken.

6. Step Change Update

- 6.1 Les Linklater delivered a brief overview highlighting some of the current initiatives / work themes Step Change are engaged in, these covered:-
- a) Asset Integrity, the production of a suite of guidance aimed at understanding the associated issues.
 - b) Hydrocarbon database training, the delivery of training guidance to assist in raising the competence of system users.
 - c) Launch of a Workforce engagement tool (5th Sept.)
 - d) Production of competence guidance, associated with safety critical issues e.g. isolation and safety leadership.
 - e) Development of an audit tool (check list) to focus on procedures and compliance associated with Human Factor issues.
 - f) The publication of updated guidance relating to Helicopter safety.
 - g) The next workforce engagement group event is scheduled for 28th Nov. 12.

7. Progress with the Noise and Hand Arm Vibration programme – Year 2

- 7.1 Bruce Appleton from the offshore occupational health team provided members with an update on the project's progress. This included findings from inspections, good and bad examples of noise control, issues facing contractors and a case study of an offshore worker diagnosed with hand arm vibration syndrome. A copy of the presentation had been circulated to members.
- 7.2 Discussions on the presentation focused on promoting good practice and alerting the offshore workforce to the risks associated with exposure to noise and vibration on offshore installations. HSE confirmed it is developing control guidance sheets primarily aimed at advising inspectors, but these could be updated to circulate to offshore workers. Step Change confirmed they also had some guidance in this area, which would be useful but was in need of revision. It was agreed that the Occupational Health Team would discuss this with Step Change further.

Action 6 Oct. 2012:- HSE Occupational Health team to meet with Step Change to explore opportunities to promote good practice and alert the workforce to the risks associated with noise and hand arm vibration.

8. Maritime and Coastguard Agency presentation

- 8.1 Neaz Hyder updated members on seafarer training certification and watch keeping (STCW) standards that are currently in place and Paul Wilkins delivered an update on the introduction of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006, which will come into force internationally in August 2013. Both presentations were well received by members and prompted debate. This focused on the potential of regulatory issues that the introduction of the MLC will create. It was believed the issues would be associated with the different types of vessel and crew, also the activities that vessels are engaged in. The presentation had been circulated to members.
- 8.2 The Chairman confirmed HSE and the MCA will need to work closely together to address all the issues around regulatory responsibility and which legislation will apply. This will need careful consideration by all parties and to be clarified in the HSE and MCA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Action 7 Oct. 2012:- The MCA to establish all the potential issues surrounding regulatory responsibility and legislative jurisdiction that will arise from the introduction of the Maritime Labour Convention and work with HSE's Operational Policy Team to address them and update the HSE / MCA MoU.

9. Piper Alpha 25yr Anniversary Event

- 9.1 Robert Paterson confirmed Oil & Gas UK would be holding a 3 day event, 18th – 20th June 2013 to mark the anniversary. An event planning team had been established and the initial views were that the event would reflect on the achievements and improvements within the offshore industry and include a workforce engagement event. It was confirmed that Lord Cullen would provide the 'key note' speech and Judith Hackitt (Chair of the HSE Board) will be invited address delegates.
- 9.2 There was support for both the Workforce Involvement Group (WIG) and the Workforce Engagement Group (WEG) to work together on the arrangements for the workforce engagement activities.

Action 8 Oct. 2012:- Oil & Gas UK to update members on progress with the Piper Alpha anniversary event at the March 13 meeting

10. Any other relevant business

Offshore Sector Strategy

- 10.1 The Chairman thanked OIAC members for their comments and confirmed that the strategy had been posted on HSE's web site in September.

OIAC Publications

- 10.2 It was reported that HSE's Offshore Division Occupation Health Team had recently reviewed the OIAC publication 'Management of occupational health risks in the offshore oil and gas industry'. The review concluded that much of the publication is now covered within the offshore occupational health web pages. Members agreed to the request to withdraw the publication.
- 10.3 The Chairman also confirmed that there were other OIAC publications, but at present there were no proposals to review them, these include:-
- a) "Multi-skilling in the Petroleum Industry". (1st published in 1992 (titled "Guidance on Multi-skilling in the petroleum industry", re-published in 1998)
 - b) "The Safe Isolation of Plant and Equipment" (1st published 1997 and re-issued 2003)
 - c) "Guidance on Permit – to – Work Systems in the Petroleum Industry" (published in 1991, and re-issued in 1997 & 2003)
 - d) "Play your Part! How offshore workers can help improve health and safety" (Published 2002)
 - e) "Report and conclusions of a survey of safety training for technicians working in hazardous areas" (Published 1990)
- 10.4 It was agreed the secretary will circulate the publications to all members to consider if the documents are fit for purpose or need review. (This will be with the exception of 'Play our Part' which is to be reviewed by WIG and the 'Permit to Work' guidance which had been recently reviewed and deemed fit for purpose).

Action 9 Oct. 2012:- **The Secretary to circulate to members the OIAC publications 'Multi-skilling in the Petroleum Industry', 'The Safe Isolation of Plant and Equipment' and 'Report and conclusions of a survey of safety training for technicians working in hazardous areas'.**

Action 10 Oct. 2012:- **Members to review the OIAC publications 'Multi-skilling in the Petroleum Industry', 'The Safe Isolation of Plant and Equipment' and 'Report and conclusions of a survey of safety training for technicians working in hazardous areas' and report if they are fit for purpose or need review back at the March 2013 meeting.**

KP 4 – Aging and Life Extension Inspection Programme Interim Report

- 10.5 Members were informed there is a joint HSE and Oil & Gas UK launch event scheduled for 6th Nov 12.

Date of the next OIAC Meeting

- 10.6 Members agreed the date of the next meeting will be 12th March 2013, to be held at Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen.