

OFFSHORE OIL & GAS SECTOR STRATEGY

2014 TO 2017

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1 Major hazard risks

HSE will direct its resources to preventing and mitigating major accident hazards. It will do this by:

- Ensuring duty holders apply inherent safety principles in managing risks
- Implementing a robust safety case assessment and review process to ensure operators have identified risks and put appropriate control measures in place before offshore installations come into operation and that standards are maintained
- Prioritising interventions based on the inherent hazards of the installation or pipeline, performance of duty holders in controlling risks and other defined operational intelligence
- Undertaking interventions in line with HSE's [HID Regulatory Model](#) and in particular focusing on how well duty holders manage major hazard risks by sampling arrangements in key areas
- Identifying the underlying as well as the immediate causes of any deficiencies in dutyholders arrangements for managing risks
- Taking action to ensure immediate and underlying causes of failures of risk management are addressed

2 Personal health and safety risks

The offshore oil & gas sector generally has a good record in managing personal health and safety risks compared to the many other UK industry sectors. Therefore, HSE will limit its activity in this area. It will:

- Target interventions on the least well managed occupational health risks posing the greatest risks to the workforce
- Target issues where a failure could be a precursor to a major hazard event, including mechanical handling and crane operations
- Deal with matters of evident concern¹ identified during inspections and investigations
- Investigate accidents and complaints in accordance with its mandatory incident selection criteria and complaints policies

¹ Matters of evident concern [MEC] are those that create a risk of serious personal injury or ill-health and which are observed (i.e. self evident) or brought to the attention of an inspector [[OC 18/12](#)].

3 Major hazard risks

AIM 1 – LEADERSHIP: The offshore industry² demonstrates effective leadership in managing major hazard risks.

Objective 1: The industry implements actions agreed under Step Change in Safety as set out in [UK Oil and Gas Industrial Strategy: government and industry in partnership](#), published by BIS in 2013.

Objective 2: The industry has effective arrangements for identifying, sharing and learning lessons for controlling major hazard risks.

Objective 3: Industry leaders declare their support for key major hazard performance measures and report their company's performances against these measures annually.

AIM 2 – COMPETENCE: Duty holders demonstrate competence to manage major hazard risks.

Objective 4: Duty holders have arrangements to ensure that leaders, staff and contractors, at all levels in safety critical roles, are competent and resourced to discharge their duties.

AIM 3 – ASSET INTEGRITY: The integrity of offshore installations, wells, well control equipment and pipelines are ensured throughout their life cycle.

Objective 5: Duty holders secure asset integrity throughout the lifecycle of their installations, wells and pipelines.

Objective 6: Duty holders implement [Oil & Gas UK Guidance on the Conduct and Management of Operational Risk Assessment](#) for dealing with impaired safety critical elements or other abnormal situations.

Objective 7: Duty holders ensure floating and semi-submersible installations remain stable and on station.

Objective 8: Duty holders apply lessons learned from major well incidents such as the Deepwater Horizon and Montara accidents.

² Industry – duty holders, the offshore workforce and other key stakeholders

Objective 9: Duty holders apply the learning from HSE's KP4 programme to their ageing and life extension practises.

AIM 4 – HYDROCARBON RELEASE REDUCTION PROGRAMME: There is a continuous reduction in hydrocarbon releases (HCRs) offshore.

Objective 10: The industry achieves its target of 50% reduction in HCRs over the three-year period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2016.

Objective 11: Duty holders prevent HCRs by the application of effective control of work arrangements.

AIM 5 – EMERGENCIES: Duty holders have effective arrangements for emergencies.

Objective 12: Duty holders demonstrate the integrity of temporary refuges.

AIM 6 – WORKER ENGAGEMENT: Workers and employee representatives engage actively in health and safety matters and in particular, major hazard risks.

Objective 13: Employers adopt the [Step Change Workforce Engagement Toolkit](#), including the use of the engagement survey and act on its findings, or take equally effective measures to ensure workers are actively engaged.

Objective 14: Duty holders ensure that safety representatives are sufficiently aware of major accident hazard risks by taking into account the OPITO Approved Standard, Elected Safety Representatives Development Training.

AIM 7 – REGULATORY APPROACH: The regulation of major hazard risks is proportionate, targeted, consistent and transparent and HSE is accountable to the industry, workers and the public for its actions.

Objective 15: HSE ensures interventions are targeted, transparent and consistent.

Objective 16: HSE has the capability, capacity and competence to deliver the strategy.

Objective 17: HSE will bring forward arrangements and legislation for implementing the [Offshore Safety Directive 2013/30/EU](#), including the creation of an offshore competent Authority with DECC, by July 2015.

Objective 18: HSE works with the offshore industry in the UK, Europe & elsewhere to develop and promote robust standards for managing major hazard risks in the UKCS.

4 Personal health and safety risks

AIM 8 – PERSONAL HEALTH & SAFETY: Offshore operators address the most significant issues.

Objective 19: Duty holders effectively manage risks from noise and hand-arm vibration.

Objective 20: Duty holders ensure they conduct crane and lifting operations safely.

5 Investigations and securing justice

AIM 9 – INVESTIGATIONS & SECURING JUSTICE: HSE promotes sustained compliance with the law and holds duty holders to account where failures give rise to significant risks.

Objective 21: HSE undertakes investigations in accordance with HSE/HID investigation policies.

Objective 22: HSE secures compliance with the law by taking action in accordance with its [Enforcement Policy Statement](#) and [Enforcement Management Model](#).

Objective 23: HSE initiates prosecutions in accordance with the requirements of the Code for Crown Prosecutors in England & Wales and in Scotland, recommends prosecution to the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service in line with the Lord Advocates Code Practice.

