Permit to work

Often getting the right permit to work (PTW) for the job can seem like a lot of trouble. Sometimes it can feel like the PTW takes more time than the job. But it’s at times like this that it’s most important to remember what PTWs and isolations certificates are there for – to help minimise the risk of accidents.

The PTW system is a key part of the Safety Management System (or SMS) and it has three really important functions:

- to control access to the worksite so that the OIM (and everyone else) knows that only those people who can do the job are at the worksite;
- to show what equipment is being worked on and where, and ensure it is isolated and safe to work on;
- to capture any human errors and changes in the situation before they develop into an incident.

Whether you are the Performing Authority, Area Authority Supervisor or OIM, think about these three objectives for the PTW and ask yourself – am I helping to ensure the PTW delivers what it is meant to?

We are working with the industry to try to make PTW systems both more user-friendly and effective.

You can find guidance on PTW at: http://www.hse.gov.uk/humanfactors/topics/ptw.htm

Human factors – taking the first steps

Following the publication of their guidance Human Factors: Taking the first steps... Step Change have now added to this by publishing a ‘Human Factors presenters’ pack.

The pack is designed to support the guidance and includes a range of support materials including slide presentations, presenters’ notes and posters. This is intended to help people present the guidance and use it to provoke discussion. It could be used by safety reps, supervisors, safety advisers or others. It is available on CD to Step Change member companies.


Where to go for more information

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

50% recycled
What’s happening with WIG?

OIAC’s Workforce Involvement Group (WIG) held a Workforce Involvement Event in November 2010. Gordon Macdonald, Director of Hazardous Installations Directorate, gave a presentation and was delighted with the very high attendance and positive comments: ‘I am reassured to see such positive input from the workforce and encourage you to continue to “play your part”.’

As with previous events, it was an opportunity to share good practices, knowledge and experiences. The presentations from the event, photographs and feedback can be found on the WIG website: www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/oiac/wig.htm

There is a new podcast on the WIG website called Importance of Workforce Involvement from WIG Members’ Perspective.

WIG is continuing to work with partners to develop an additional training matrix for safety representatives to include examples of planned good practice. A further event is planned – the venue and date are yet to be agreed. Details will be available on the WIG website.

KP4 inspections get underway

The KP4 inspection programme on Ageing and Life Extension has now been initiated by Offshore Safety Division. The scope of the dutyholder inspections covers a very broad range of offshore disciplines including:

- structural integrity;
- maritime integrity;
- fire and explosion integrity;
- process integrity;
- corrosion;
- mechanical integrity;
- wells;
- pipelines; and
- organisational factors.

We have undertaken a number of planned inspections which have shown the offshore industry’s very positive response to KP4. There are already clear signs that special attention is being given to the management of ageing and life extension.

Further information on KP4 and ageing/life extension of offshore installations can be found at: http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/ageing.htm

Deepwater Horizon update

By Steve Walker (Head of Offshore Division)

‘The recent publication of the US Presidential Commission report into the Deepwater Horizon blowout continues to serve as a reminder for all those working in the industry of what could happen when things go wrong offshore.

‘Eleven offshore workers died in that tragic incident in the Gulf of Mexico last year. We must all learn the lessons coming out from the various investigations, and I am particularly pleased to be a member of the UK Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG), along with trade unions and industry representatives.’

This group has been brought together to review the industry’s practices and its progress can be seen at: http://www.oilandgasuk.co.uk/knowledgecentre/OSPRAG.cfm

HSE’s SI971 inspection programme

HSE undertook an inspection programme of work to check industry compliance with the provision of SI971 (Offshore Installations Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1989).

The SI971 programme saw the inspection of 41 installations involving 25 dutyholders. The information gathered is currently being analysed and the detailed findings will be published later this year.

There were numerous examples of good practice. The inspection programme has proved positive in highlighting the areas where dutyholders need to ‘up their game’, and where they may further support their safety representatives to maximise the benefits from the SI971 system.

An update on this will be included in the next edition of Teashack News.