

SAFETY CASE REGULATIONS TO CHANGE

'Worker involvement essential' says HSE's offshore chief, Taf Powell

In future every safety case will have to show how the installation safety representatives have been consulted during its preparation or when it is revised or reviewed. This is just one of the key changes proposed in the new Safety Case Regulations.

Others include:

- making the Regulations easier to understand/less 'red tape';
- driving for continuous improvement in safety;
- helping to make all offshore regulations work together.

Have your say now – see the proposals at: www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd198.htm

The consultation ends on 10 September 2004. Don't miss this unique opportunity to influence your future safety.

PROBLEMS WITH WORKING TIME?

The Working Time Regulations are Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) law about terms and conditions of employment. Among other things they introduce two important provisions for offshore workers:

- a maximum weekly working time limit of 48 hours over a reference period of 52 weeks;
- entitlements, which include things like annual leave and rest periods.

There is an agreement with the DTI that HSE will enforce working time limits. However, HSE is not involved in enforcement of entitlements, which are dealt with by employment tribunals.

- For help and advice on entitlements to annual leave and rest periods call ACAS on 08457 47 47 47.
- For help and advice on the 48 hour working time limit call one of the HSE offices listed in this news sheet.

There is other health and safety law relevant to hours of work offshore. More information on this and HSE's role in enforcing the Working Time Regulations can be found in Operations Notice 65 on the HSE website at: www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/notices/on_index.htm

A guide to the Working Time Regulations offshore is also available from the UK Offshore Operators Association at: www.oilandgas.org.uk/ukooa/newpublications/pdfs/ops18.pdf



Welcome to the first issue of our news sheet for offshore workers. We want 'Tea-shack news' to give you information on the work we do offshore. In future editions we will tell you about some of the key health and safety programmes we are carrying out. But we also want to know what you would like to see – **so tell us!**

HANDLE WITH CARE

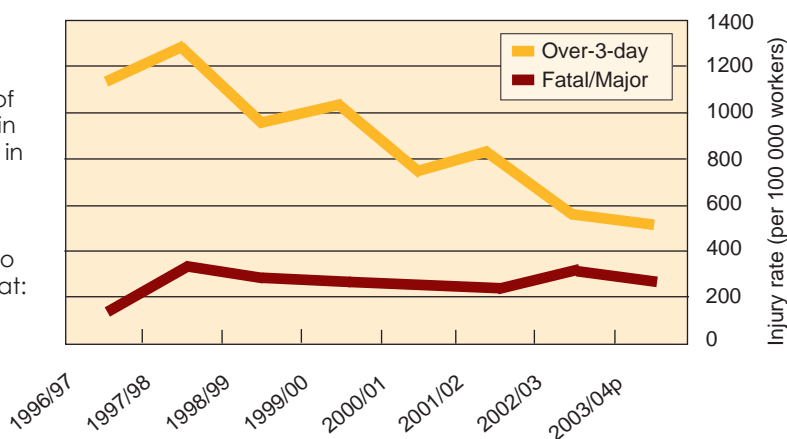
'The latest accident statistics are mixed, especially when you look at the longer trends rather than comparing just a couple of years data' says Taf Powell.

'The over-3-day rate continues to fall steadily, but the fatal and major injury rate is pretty flat, and quite high compared to many industries onshore. There were three fatal accidents last year, bringing the total of UK offshore oil and gas industry fatal accidents to 10 since 2000. This is unacceptable, and I know the industry agrees. There is positive commitment by employers and Unions to work with HSE to reduce fatal accidents to zero.'

Handling, lifting and carrying are the most common causes of all injuries. The safety of the workplace is in the hands of those at risk, their supervisors, and those who plan and organise the work - think about it! You can find more information about handling, lifting and carrying issues on the HSE's 'Ergonomics Offshore' page at:

www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/ergonomics.htm

Further details on 2003/04 accident statistics can be found in the Offshore Safety Statistics Bulletin at: www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/statistics/stat0304.htm
HSE, Trade Union and Step Change comments about the Bulletin can be found in a press release at: www.hse.gov.uk/press/press.htm



INSTALLATION MAINTENANCE - IS YOURS FALLING APART?

For the next three years HSE will focus attention on installation integrity and maintenance management matters through our 'KP3' project.

Why?

- Many offshore installations (and the equipment on them) have reached, or are near to, the end of their design life.
- The drive to reduce costs has led to changes in offshore maintenance arrangements including a reduction in skilled, offshore workers.
- The situation **must** be managed effectively to control risks.

HSE inspectors will be:

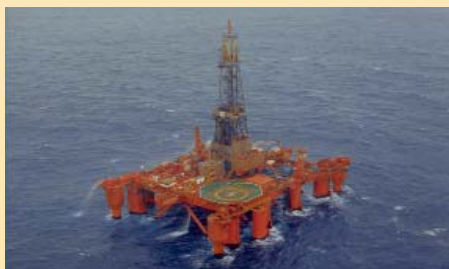
- looking closely at key maintenance/integrity issues;
- developing joint programmes with industry, trade unions and safety representatives/workers;
- sharing findings with **ALL** concerned and taking any necessary enforcement action.

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:

**Health and Safety Executive,
Lord Cullen House,
Fraser Place,
Aberdeen, AB25 3UB.**

E-mail: osd.tnews@hse.gsi.gov.uk



WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

HSE OFFICES DEALING WITH OFFSHORE SAFETY

Health and Safety Executive
Lord Cullen House
Fraser Place
Aberdeen
AB25 3UB
Tel: 01224 252500

Health and Safety Executive
122A Thorpe Road
Norwich
NR1 1RN
Tel: 01603 828000

Health and Safety Executive
Merton House
Stanley Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 3DL
Tel: 0151 951 4000

Health and Safety Executive
Rose Court
2 Southwark Bridge
London
SE1 9HS
Tel: 0207 717 6000

GENERAL HSE ENQUIRIES

HSE Infoline
Tel: 08701 545500
Fax: 02920 859260
E-mail: hseinformationservices@natbrit.com
or write to HSE Information Services, Caerphilly
Business Park, Caerphilly CF83 3GG

WEB-BASED INFORMATION

The HSE's Offshore Safety home page at:
www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/index.htm

Some useful offshore leaflets that you can download free from the HSE website:

Play your part: how you can help improve health and safety offshore INDG239
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg239.htm

Safety representatives and safety committees on offshore installations INDG119
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg119.pdf

Regulating health and safety in the UK offshore oil and gas fields: Who does what? INDG361
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg361.pdf

How offshore helicopter travel is regulated INDG219
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg219.htm