

Ship collision risk

HSE takes safety zone infringements very seriously and HSE policy is to prosecute.

The recent jailing of the Captain of the MV Jork for twelve months shows this. The joint HSE and Crown Prosecution Service's case followed a joint investigation into an incident when the MV Jork entered the safety zone around the Viking Echo installation without permission and collided with it.

HSE seeks to prevent recurrence of such incidents by reminding all relevant parties of the seriousness and consequences of safety zone infringements.



Where to go for more information

GENERAL HSE ENQUIRIES

HSE Infoline:
Tel: 0845 345 0055 Fax: 0845 408 9566
E-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com

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

Stop press...

The installation integrity KP3 report has just been published. Installation integrity will remain an important theme for the foreseeable future.

Tea-shack News

HSE's news sheet for offshore workers

Issue 6 Dec 2007



Deck and drilling inspection programme completed but lifting incidents rising

The KP2 inspection programme, with its target of reducing incidents in deck and drilling operations, is now completed. Although the programme has met its targets, the number of lifting-related incidents is still too high. The programme findings provide a clearer understanding of

the root causes of such accidents and dangerous occurrences and lessons need to be learned. HSE has written to all duty holders advising them of the findings. We will be checking to see what is being done but why don't you check on your own installation?



The full report and supporting guidance can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/kp2finalreport.htm.

HSE to focus on verification

Starting in late 2007, HSE inspectors will be looking at verification again. We want to check how well the independent verifier and duty holder are working together and how well companies are learning from the work of the verifier. The duty holder must identify and ensure the initial and continuing suitability of safety-critical elements from a major accident point of view. It is the independent verifier's job to advise the duty holder whether this has been achieved or not and produce a report of any findings. Ask your safety representative if he has seen these reports.

Why does HSE investigate?

Some people wonder why HSE investigates accidents and incidents. Aren't the company's own procedures good enough? If there's an incident, duty holders themselves could establish what's gone wrong and put it right couldn't they? In some cases, yes, but HSE brings the independence and expertise to ensure that lessons are really being learned. And in some cases, where there have been serious failures in management systems, we can ensure the right action is taken.



Managing occupational health risks

Working offshore can involve exposure to a wide range of hazardous substances, noise and vibration, radiations and ergonomic hazards. All can potentially harm workers' health, immediately or later in life, causing eg respiratory disease, dermatitis, cancer, hearing loss and muscular injuries. HSE is working to improve arrangements for managing health risks offshore. Your involvement and commitment is essential in this, as you are closest to the hazard and it's your health which will benefit. So, you need to play your part by: being aware of the arrangements for managing health risks, helping to identify hazards, suggesting improvements, reporting problems/symptoms and giving feedback on the effectiveness of controls.

Common permit-to-work?

HSE believes that the variations in permit-to-work systems across the industry create unnecessary risks for the many contractors who work on more than one installation. We would like the industry to move to a much more consistent approach or even a common permit. What do you think? Have you or your workmates experienced near misses or confusion due to different permit arrangements? We would welcome your comments on our feedback line - osd.tnews@hse.gsi.gov.uk.

Workforce involvement and safety representatives

HSE believes it is important to meet the offshore workforce and safety representatives to listen to their views as much as possible during our inspections. However, we appreciate that we do not always succeed for various reasons. If we miss you, please seek us out to let us know what works well and tell us your health, safety and welfare concerns. We welcome safety representatives joining us during our inspections.

