

# Where is the asbestos on your installation?

Over 4000 people die from asbestos-related diseases annually. Most at risk are people who unknowingly disturb or work on asbestos-containing materials (ACMs).

ACMs in good condition and left undisturbed will not cause any harm. Disturbance will result in fibres becoming airborne, which if breathed in, are harmful to health.



In a number of recent incidents offshore, the lack of an asbestos management plan, or its ineffective application, has led to uncontrolled disturbance of ACMs and subsequent exposure and spread. Several Improvement Notices have been served.

An inspection project is planned for 2007/08.

## 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](mailto:hse.infoline@natbrit.com)

### WEB-BASED INFORMATION

HSE's Offshore safety:  
[www.hse.gov.uk/offshore](http://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](mailto:osd.tnews@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

## Stop press...

### Offshore Europe 2007

Come and visit the joint HSE/Stepchange stand at the Offshore Europe Exhibition, which runs from 4–7 September 2007 at the Exhibition Centre, Aberdeen.



# Installation SHUT DOWN!

A planned integrity inspection resulted in an offshore installation shutting down. The inspection team found a number of deficiencies in plant and equipment key to safe operation. Operational risk assessments were in place to allow continued production; beach management were not aware. The dutyholder had not assessed the risk from the cumulative effect of each individual deficiency.

The findings were brought to the attention of the OIM, who immediately **shut down** the installation.

Notices were served to ensure that the operator put in place effective management arrangements for assessing the overall process safety risks arising from the cumulative effects and interactions of multiple system and equipment failures.

## Operational risk management - a case study

Are you working with old or unreliable equipment? Are failures to be 'worked around', relying on your skills and expertise, rather than being fixed or replaced? Are operational risk assessments used to cope with breakdowns or failures?

These are some of the issues raised by an investigation into the multiple fatality explosion of a blast furnace at Corus UK's Port Talbot Steelworks in 2001.

Corus had failed to carry out risk assessments and implement robust controls on the operation of the furnace's water coolant systems. A large volume of coolant water mixed with molten steel, causing an explosion and molten metal to rain down on the furnace workers. The company had failed to ensure that safety critical pumps worked correctly and were reliable. Furthermore, as safety barriers deteriorated, internal technical advice was either ignored or not acted on. Instead, reliance was placed on a 'work-around' culture with failures 'coped with' rather than properly fixed.

We face similar issues on installations. Are there lessons in managing change that our industry can, or should, learn from this dreadful incident?

Further details can be found at:  
[www.hse.gov.uk/press/2006/e06116.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2006/e06116.htm)

# Workforce involvement in safety



HSE has always believed in the importance of workers participation in offshore safety. Installation operators, owners and employers have a duty to consult safety representatives on health and safety matters. Now they have to **demonstrate** that they have done this!

The Safety Case Regulations 2005 introduce a requirement for dutyholders to summarise in every safety case just how safety reps were consulted about the revision, review or preparation of the safety case. In other words, involve you – the workforce.

Did this happen on your installation? If it didn't and if your reps haven't been involved or consulted, take it up with your managers and **sort them out!**

## Safety themes 2007/08

This year, OSD will pursue the following inspection themes:

**Contractor competence and dutyholder relationship:** Operators rely heavily on the use of contractors. It is vital that there are sufficient arrangements in place to make sure people have the right skills and competence for the jobs they undertake.

**Change:** How often do small changes get overlooked? A number of small changes together can result in fundamental failures and we will be looking at awareness of the impact of small changes on hazards.

**Corrosion:** The extent of corrosion and the poor physical condition of a number of offshore installations needs to be dealt with.

**Barrier inspection:** Operators have audit systems to measure and confirm how well their safety management processes (barriers) are



working offshore. We will be looking at how audit results are used and how effectively they are applied across the company.

**Verification:** Operators must use an independent competent person to check that safety critical elements are properly maintained. We will look at how companies are using these verification outputs to maintain efficient risk controls.

## Integrity Inspection Project approaches its end

HSE's safety critical maintenance inspection project (KP3) will end this year having carried out over 100 inspections. These have shown areas of good and bad practice, which are common across the industry. It is clear that the importance of maintaining TR integrity by ensuring effective TR HVAC shutdown on smoke or gas detection has been neglected over the years since Piper. In response to our findings the industry has produced a good practice guide for HVAC maintenance and testing.

KP3 inspections have resulted in several enforcement notices. Issues include pipework corrosion, poor housekeeping, leaks on hydraulic systems, replacement of a composite wrap, TR integrity, and the cumulative effects of failed safety critical elements.

HSE will be carrying forward the issues identified in KP3 through the inspection of company integrity audits with emphasis not only on compliance, but also on learning and improvement. It is now up to the industry to pick up the KP3 ball and run with it.