



## Installation maintenance What's happening?

In the last year, HSE has carried out 23 installation integrity inspections, with 40 more planned for 2005/06. A number of maintenance-related enforcement notices have been served. Key areas requiring action include:

- maintenance activities resourcing and planning;
- maintenance quality;
- safety critical systems reliability;
- inspection and audit mechanisms;
- technical supervision and support from the beach;
- workforce involvement in major risk control strategies.

Improvements are starting to appear. An example is a recent follow-up visit to an installation, which revealed a marked reduction in the maintenance backlog – to almost zero!

HSE is also working with the offshore stakeholders to identify best practice and to track improvements as well as deficiencies.

### What can you do?

You can challenge employers, operators and owners on installation integrity matters, either directly or through your safety reps. Every integrity inspection includes a workforce presentation by HSE – please attend and participate, we want to hear from you.

**Your experience is valued and your opinions count!**

## Where to go for more information

### GENERAL HSE ENQUIRIES

HSE Infoline:

Tel: 0845 345 0055, Fax: 0845 408 9566

E-mail: [hseinformationservices@natbrit.com](mailto:hseinformationservices@natbrit.com)

### WEB-BASED INFORMATION

The HSE's Offshore Safety home page at:  
[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 ... then and now!

Following on from last year's Step Change in Safety Combined Networks meeting, Step Change are planning another event in June 2005. HSE are again invited to attend, so any issues or questions you may have can be put to us via your safety rep. Don't miss this opportunity!

# Tea-shack News

HSE's news sheet for offshore workers

March 2005



## How safe is offshore helicopter transport?

Helicopters are essential for transporting offshore workers to and from offshore installations.

HSE commissioned a study to provide an accurate safety record of UK offshore helicopters over the period 1976-2002. The report compares accident numbers and rates with other UK and worldwide aviation data and with other forms of transport.

In recent years, offshore helicopter operations have achieved a good safety record.

It compares favourably with commonly used land-based passenger transport

(excluding rail). However, the fatal S76 accident in 2002 shows that there's no room for complacency.



Check out the report on the HSE website at: [www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/information.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/information.htm) under *Statistics*.

## Workforce involvement and OIAC

The Offshore Industry Advisory Committee (OIAC) is made up of representatives of the offshore trades unions and the offshore employers and chaired by HSE. It works with HSE on all aspects of offshore health and safety. Its top priority now is finding ways to encourage more workforce involvement. At its latest meeting on 9 March, OIAC agreed a programme to stimulate involvement, in close co-operation with Step Change. Look out for more information soon. Meanwhile, details on OIAC can be found on the HSE website.



## One fatality or major injury is one too many

HSE is running a major programme of inspections and investigations aimed at reducing accidents in drilling and deck operations. Findings so far indicate that supervision, risk assessment and provision of information and training are the main areas requiring action.

HSE is also working with industry to identify good practice in the areas of supervision, monitoring, and job design and risk assessment.

Please make sure you and your colleagues work safely. Ultimately, **you** can make the real difference.

## New Safety Case regulations - the latest

The new regulations are expected to come into force at the end of 2005. A good response was received during the consultation process, and all the comments will be available from HSE Information Centres. HSE is revising all the associated procedures and guidance. This will include changes to the way HSE safety case assessors work, such as being more effective in assessing how major hazards are dealt with.

## Enforcement

Workforce feedback on Tea-shack News 1 indicated that you wanted to know what enforcement action HSE has taken. Well, in the six months since TSN1 there have been four Prohibition Notices, 15 Improvement Notices and three prosecutions completed. Details can be found on the HSE website.

## Health - still the poor relation to safety?

Safety is about identifying hazards and controlling risks so that we all get home from every trip. But what happens if an injury takes years to develop?

We are talking about occupational ill health: ie hearing loss; stress-induced illness; musculoskeletal disorders; and skin and lung diseases. Many of you may know the devastation these can cause ...or maybe you are still waiting to find out?

To HSE, health issues are as important as safety issues. Owners/operators, employers and contractors must demonstrate how they manage health risks.

This means policies, procedures and people in place to prevent workers' exposure to harmful environments. Systems to detect any early effects, and systems that address those people already affected, so they don't get worse.

