Important Changes to ‘Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995’ (RIDDOR)

As of 6 April 2012, RIDDOR’s over-three-day injury reporting requirement has changed. The trigger point has increased from over three days’ to over seven days’ incapacitation (not counting the day on which the accident happened).

Incapacitation means that the worker is absent or is unable to do work that they would reasonably be expected to do as part of their normal work. Employers and others with responsibilities under RIDDOR must still keep a record of all over-three-day injuries – if the employer has to keep an accident book, then this record will be enough.

The deadline by which the over-seven-day injury must be reported will increase to 15 days from the day of the accident.

New guidance that explains the change is available to download from the HSE website (www.hse.gov.uk).

Where to go for more information

General HSE enquiries/Web-based information

Please go to HSE’s offshore safety home page at: www.hse.gov.uk/offshore

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

email: osd.tnewss@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Printed and published by the Health and Safety Executive 05/12
The offshore industry has reacted positively to the ageing and life extension programme, with many duty holders having created Ageing & Life Extension coordinators.

Provisional themes arising from the inspections so far include:
- There is a need to improve ALE understanding and its implications on long term health & safety in the offshore industry.
- Improving onshore planning could help manage offshore ALE issues more effectively.
- There are significant legacy issues to overcome if ALE issues are to be managed effectively in the long term.
- Fixing problems offshore would be preferable to using operational risk assessments in the long term.
- Using “STOP” cards could be a useful aid to identifying ALE issues to be rectified.
- Improved auditing would help improve ALE issues.

An interim ALE programme report is being prepared on the findings to date, which is planned for release in Q3 2012. HSE is working together with Oil & Gas UK to identify ALE guidance needed to help industry to improve the long term health and safety issues offshore.

Phase 2 of the ALE programme will commence in 2012, which will enable an element of ALE to be included in all future inspections of duty holders who have previously had a formal major KP4/ALE inspection.

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

Ma itland Review
An independent review panel, chaired by Professor Geoffrey Maitland was undertaken as a consequence of the Deepwater Horizon incident in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010 – when control of the well was lost, leading to explosions which cost 11 lives and precipitated one of the worst oil spills in US history.

The review examined the regulatory regime around the safety and environmental control of oil and gas exploration in the UK.

The report of this review has now been issued and Professor Maitland advised:

“We have found a great many positives in the UK’s safety and environmental regulation, in what is generally regarded as a world-leading regime, whilst identifying areas where there is still scope for further reducing the risks of incidents occurring.”
Professor Geoffrey Maitland

A number of positive attributes were identified in the report such as:
- stringent assessment of environmental impacts;
- a safety system that requires industry to identify hazards, assess the risks and follow best practice to manage them; and
- a comprehensive emergency response framework.

However the review panel also recognised that ‘no system is perfect – that there can be no room for complacency or a belief that improvement is unattainable’. The review panel made suggestions for how the UK offshore regime could be strengthened further eg:
- improving the learning cultures and processes for spreading best practice;
- greater integration between the regulatory authorities;
- a clearer command and control structure in the event of a spill;
- robust arrangements to ensure operators’ level of liability and ability to pay in the event of a spill;
- intensified R & D to develop improved avoidance, capping containment, clean-up and impact monitoring of major offshore oil spill incidents.

“Professor Maitland’s report highlights the strengths of the UK’s offshore safety regime, but also reminds us that more improvements are possible. HSE is working with its regulatory partners in the Department of Energy and Climate Change and in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to respond to the recommendations and this will include dialogue with industry representatives. I am also pleased that Professor Maitland’s report highlights the essential role played by the offshore workforce and makes recommendations aimed toward enhancing this.”
HSE Head of Offshore Division Steve Walker

HSE is working closely with DECC and industry to consider the Maitland recommendations.

The full report is available at:

UK oil and gas regime - High standards but can still improve

Workforce involvement Group (WIG)
This has been a busy period for the WIG which has included:
- The WIG Chair accepting an invitation from Rowan to visit one of their new ‘state of the art’ jack ups.
  “I was amazed by the level of automation, and the accommodation was to the highest standard. It is a great example of how good workforce consultation can influence design.”
  Fraser Easton WIG Chair
- A WIG member visited Tiffany platform to experience firsthand examples of workforce involvement.
- A WIG member attended the Exxon Mobil Safety Rep Annual meeting along with attending the 3 day seminar held for safety reps held by Marathon Oil.

KP4 - Ageing and Life Extension Programme – Inspection Update
As of March 2012, 14 duty holders and 14 offshore platforms have had Ageing and Life Extension (ALE) inspections, with a further 12 planned for 2012. The areas of inspection have included: corrosion, electrical control & instrumentation, fire and explosion, human & organisational factors, marine, mechanical, pipelines, process safety, structures, and wells.