Welfare Standards on Offshore Installations

HSE is very aware that an Offshore Installation is not only your place of work; it also provides the accommodation where you eat, sleep, relax and recover from work activities. The quality of accommodation can affect job performance and overall sense of comfort. It is therefore essential that Dutyholders provide appropriate, clean, and well maintained accommodation to promote worker alertness and well-being. This is particularly relevant where field life extensions are planned and Dutyholders appreciate that this will need corresponding improvements to accommodation and welfare facilities.

In May 2011, HSE initiated a three year inspection programme to cover a representative sample of Offshore Installations. The aim of the programme is to assess compliance with in offshore accommodation standards and encourage Dutyholders to carry out improvements where necessary. To date, 16 Offshore Installations have been inspected and we are encouraged to find that most Dutyholders had already taken action to improve accommodation and welfare facilities. Some of you will have already seen the benefits of these improvements to sleeping cabins and wet rooms, as well as upgrades to gymnasiums, lounges and the installation of Wi-Fi services which all contribute to better living conditions offshore.

Any queries on Welfare standards should be addressed to: Robert.Drummond@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Step Change Workforce Engagement Initiative

A new toolkit to help companies improve their workforce engagement has been created by Step Change in Safety and will be launched in September, 2012. Good workforce engagement is fundamental to improving safety performance and the toolkit comprises practical guidance and a worksite survey tool.

The survey can be completed online by everyone at a worksite, regardless of their employer, with all input confidential. It is also available in paper format. Data is submitted directly to Step Change and a summary report is then issued back to the worksite. The results will help leaders understand areas of strength and weakness and develop improvement plans as well as benchmark results against other worksites across the industry. For more information, visit www.stepchangeinsafety.net
Asbestos Offshore

Offshore installations built before 1999 can contain asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). The older the installation the more likely that the higher risk materials such as lagging and boarding will be present. Other ACMs liable to be found offshore include: external sheeting, brake linings, arc shields for electrical switchgear, and gaskets.

Increased maintenance and fabrication activities, which are required to deal with the aging offshore infrastructure, have resulted in a greater potential for exposure to asbestos. There have been several incidents where asbestos has been poorly managed and subsequently disturbed. This has led to exposure to hazardous asbestos fibres, costly and disruptive clean-ups and in several cases formal enforcement action.

In response to these concerns, HSE’s Offshore Safety Division has agreed a three-year work plan, which will inspect duty holder arrangements for the management of ACMs. Targeted inspection of work with asbestos, which is carried out by specialist contractors holding a license issued by HSE will continue.

Comprehensive information and guidance on managing the risk from asbestos can be found at:

www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm

STOP PRESS

ANNUAL OFFSHORE INJURY FIGURES CONTINUE IMPROVEMENT

Latest Offshore Statistics have been released, please go to link below for further details:


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.tnews@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Workforce Involvement Group (WIG)

Members of the Offshore Industry Advisory Group (OIAC) visited the Transocean Prospect on 18th April 2012 whilst it was undergoing major refurbishment in Invergordon. They saw at first hand how workforce involvement can help influence design, resulting in making their working environment a safer place. Examples of ‘best practices’ were also shared regarding health and safety in the workplace.

Another successful WIG event was attended by over 100 delegates. The main theme was Sharing Best Practices and topics included ‘Workforce Involvement & the 2012 London Olympic Stadium’ and ‘Barriers and Blockers’. The event which was sponsored by IADC (North Sea Chapter) was held on 1st May 2012 in Aberdeen. A future event is planned for later this year, see website for updates.

Progress continues with Additional Training for Safety Reps following recommendations from WIG last year. OPITO is now working to develop new standards and pilot the proposed modules. An update will be provided in the near future.

www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/oiac/wig.htm