

**Framework Diagram – Resolving Differences of Professional Judgement & Finely Balanced Decisions**

**ACRONYMS**

R = Responsible  
 I = Informed  
 AP = Approved by  
 A = Administered  
 OMAR = Offshore Major Accident Regulator  
 OMT = Operational Management Team  
 IMT = Inspection Management Team

Step	Indicative Timeframe (Days) <b>See note</b>	Activity by Responsible Person	Assessment Management			Technical Assessment			Independent Review	Additional comments
			Case Co-ordinator	Assessment Manager	Case Manager	Topic Assessor	Topic Assessment Manager	OMAR Operations Manager	OMAR Operations Manager	
<b>STAGE 1: REVIEW BY CASE MANAGEMENT</b>										
1	0	Relevant inspector to highlight that a difference of professional judgement / finely balanced decision has arisen and initiate process.		R	I	R	I			'Difference of professional judgement' may occur between topic specialists (including IMT) and / or topic assessor and their topic assessment manager.  A 'finely balanced decision' may occur when a specific topic specialism indicates the case is not acceptable, but all other specialisms indicate the Case could be accepted.  Other examples may exist.
2	ASAP	<b>STAGE 1a – Resolution Meeting &amp; Discussion</b>  Set up and hold meeting to discuss issue in attempt to resolve difference of judgement or determine the finely balanced decision. Record outcome.  <b>Where agreement is reached</b> continue assessment in accordance with Assessment Instructions.  <b>If agreement is not reached</b> continue to stage 1b		I	I	I	R			Meeting attendees should include all those involved in the relevant decision at that stage.  To facilitate discussion attendees should prepare for the meeting by recording their views on the Acceptance Issues Template and circulate prior to the meeting.  Every attempt should be made to reach a resolution, the outcome is to be recorded in the relevant Topic Assessment Guide.  The Assessment Manager is to reflect details in the Assessment Recommendation Report  If agreement is not reached the Assessment Manager should instigate arrangements for Stage 1b
3	5	<b>STAGE 1b – Case Manager Review</b>  a) review Acceptance Issue Templates and relevant Topic Assessment Guides(s)  b) discuss issues with relevant parties in attempt to resolve difference  c) record decision  <b>Where agreement is reached</b> continue assessment in accordance with Assessment Instructions.  <b>If agreement is not reached</b> commence to Stage 2		I	R	I	I	I		Outcome to be recorded in relevant Topic Assessment Guide.  Assessment Manager to reflect details in Assessment Recommendation Report  Note: if agreement is not reached the Case Manager will require to instigate the formal independent review – Stage 2

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<b>STAGE 2: FORMAL INDEPENDENT REVIEW</b>											
4	6	Case Manager to initiate formal independent review.		I	R	I	I	I	I	I	
5	10	Independent Operations Manager to select independent review panel and inform OMT							R	I	The makeup of the review panel is at the discretion of an Independent Operations Manager and should include, as a minimum, a team leader and an appropriate topic specialist who are sufficiently independent of the Case.
6	15	Independent panel to review and discuss evidence	A						R		All panel members should be provided with the relevant TAGs and Assessment Issues
7	16	Independent Operations Manager to make formal decision.  Assessment to continue in accordance with Assessment Instructions.		I	I	I	I	I	R	I	Decision to be recorded on relevant Topic Assessment Guide(s).  Assessment Manager to reflect detail in Assessment Recommendation Report
<p><b>Note: All timeframes are indicative only.</b> There is an overriding expectation that the issue will be resolved in time for the Assessment Recommendation to be drawn up and presented to the Decision Maker. Points of Interpretation between HSE and OPRED should be presented to the OMAR Working Group.</p>											