

Offshore Major Accident Hazard Advisory Committee - Minutes

Unite, Teams Meeting

1000-1130

Chair: Howard Harte, HSE

Attendees:

Name	Company	Name	Company
Howard Harte	HSE (Chair)	Mark Wilson	OEUK
Craig Wiggins	Step Change in Safety	Stuart Clow	IADC
William Rann	BROA	Peter Lowson	MCA
Andrew Taylor	OPRED	Ann Joss	RMT
John Boland	UNITE	Carol Jeffrey	HSE (Secretariat)

Apologies:

Name	Company	Name	Company
Samantha Peace	HSE	Wendy Kennedy	OPRED
Jim House	MCA	Margaret Fitzgerald	IMCA

1. Introductions and call for AOAB

HSE

HH welcomed the attendees, shared the agenda, and requested any AOB.
No additional AOB.

HH gave his thanks to John/Katie, from UNITE for their work as Chair/Secretariat for OMAHAC over the last 2 years.

The OMAHAC Terms of Reference state that *“Annually the committee members will review the advisory committee’ performance, including membership, to maintain efficiency and adequate coverage of the sector.”* HH requested that the group reflect on how OMAHAC is currently working and come prepared to the next meeting to review performance. The published Terms of Reference and Ways of Working are attached below.



OMAHAC - Terms of Reference & Ways of

2. Review of Actions and Minutes of Meeting	HSE
<p>Action Review:</p> <p>HH highlighted the only remaining open action and MW confirmed that the EERTAG terms of reference are currently being developed. All other actions had been marked as complete.</p> <p>The group agreed, reviewed, and approved the draft minutes as a true reflection of the May 2023 meeting. (AT provided a couple of corrections to wording for the OPRED update).</p>	
3. Member Organisation Updates	All

OEUK - MW

In 2023 there were two successful Process Safety Leadership Principles (PSLP) sharing & learning sessions. Both sessions were extremely well attended, with the later involving industry, regulators, and other stakeholders. The learnings from these sessions are informing actions that can be undertaken in 2024 to build greater resilience in process safety controls and further embed the PSLP across industry. Further sessions are planned for 2024 and engagement will continue with other organisations who are working on process safety leadership initiatives.

The maintenance backlog reduction strategy has been agreed and distributed. The strategy focuses on reducing maintenance backlogs via a risk-based approach and pulls together a number of activities under one document. The strategy will be updated on a quarterly basis as the maintenance backlog data is received from industry. The maintenance backlog reduction task finish group, made up of maintenance leaders, will continue to share experiences and move forward industry actions to contribute to the reduction in maintenance backlog.

The last EERTAG meeting was held on 26 October 2023 under the administrative arrangements of OEUK. The terms of reference for EERTAG are being updated and there will be a reporting line to OMAHAC. Confirmation from OMAHAC is requested with regards to whether an annual performance report is produced by EERTAG and/ or updates are provided by EERTAG at each OMAHAC meeting.

The October EERTAG meeting discussed the draft Big Persons Offshore report which is currently out for review across the industry. The report will look to finalise industry actions and take these forward.

A review of the use of Tertiary Escape Equipment such as Donuts is currently being finalised. The intention is that the use of Tertiary Escape Equipment is being factored into BOSIET and FOET training to raise awareness of use of the equipment. The learning outcomes have been agreed and the training is being progressed by OPITO.

The OEUK operational risk assessment (ORA) guidelines are being updated and are due to be published at the end of 2023.

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The OEUK safe isolation and reinstatement of plant (SIRP) guidelines are moving forward and will be published in the first half of 2024.

The OEUK aviation and medical guidelines are currently undergoing a long overdue update, and both are in the process of being reviewed by relevant stakeholders. The expectation is that both guidelines are issued in 2024.

Step Change - CW

The Executive Director handover from Steve Rae to Craig Wiggins is complete.

The Q4 Theme of Wellbeing and Work Environment is ongoing. A Wellbeing and Work Environment event is being held at the Beach Ballroom on 14 November.

Preparations are ongoing for the Q1 2024 Quarterly theme of Major Accident Hazard Understanding.

The SCiS Plan for 2024 is being developed.

The Principles of Process Safety Leadership Survey results are being shared with individual companies and the OIM Network. Consideration is being given to running the Survey again in 2024 targeting the frontline offshore workforce.

IADC - SC

IADC have issued 2 Safety Alerts which are attached for awareness.

IADC have released the Q3 2023 Incident Statistics Program report on global incident rates.

IADC have developed guidelines on Subsea Competence Assessment and Working Safely with Hydrogen Sulphide.

IADC are working with BP and API to consider developing guidelines on a best practice approach for rig intake.

There was a discussion on the IADC Mental Health Charter and involvement from all sectors across the industry.

[IADC Mental Health in Energy](#)

Meeting Date: 09.11.23

BROA – WR

The UK, Norway and IMO have in place a temporary Tripartite Agreement which was due to run until 31 December 2023, which allows for the carriage of Offshore Contaminated Bulk Liquid Treated for UK and Norwegian flagged vessels.

The UK Chamber met with GOMO, MCA and the Maritime Safety Forum on 7 November, at which an update was provided on carriage requirements.

At the Technical Group on the Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards (ESPH) held in November the proposal from the UK & Norway was to extend the expiry date of the product for Offshore Contaminated Bulk Liquid Treated, and consider reviewing the OSV Chemical Code content for contaminated backloads. Both proposals were well received, and agreement reached.

In summary, the ESPH group agreed to extend the expiry date of "Offshore contaminated bulk Liquid Treated (containing less than 0.8% of an H₂S Scavenger) (o)" in list 1 of the MEPC.2/Circular for three years, to 31 December 2026 and to prepare a proposal for a new output for revision of the OSV Chemical Code.

IMCA – Apologies

MCA – PL

MCA discussed the Stena Spey anchor chain failures which resulted in an evacuation during Storm Babet.

Due to COVID, Ukraine, and other global issues there is a shortage of helicopter spares. To reassure, spares for SAR helicopters are prioritised and there is no anticipated impact.

OPRED - AT

OPRED have modified their structure and are transitioning into regional teams.

There remains a high level of legal challenge on OPRED decisions, and this is anticipated to be the norm for the foreseeable future.

The Energy Bill has now passed through Parliament which will allow changes to secondary legislation to cover CCS and Hydrogen projects.

OPRED are starting to see some regulatory impacts from turnover of operator staff with, in some cases, less understanding of the UK regulatory regime with some possible offshore impacts.

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RMT – AJ

This was Ann’s first meeting, and she was welcomed to OMAHAC. Ann had no issues to raise.

Unite – JB

Unite raised issues around the offshore Skills Passport and difficulties in getting alignment. A further meeting to try and resolve this issue is planned for January 2024.

HSE – HH

Maintenance Backlogs

HSE is continuing to focus on maintenance backlogs at all production installation inspections and is also engaging with stakeholder groups.

OEUK has set out its Maintenance Backlog Reduction Strategy, which is attached.

Extreme weather

Following publication of the extreme weather research findings, HSE will send letters to duty holders in Q4 2023 requiring them to provide a progress update on how they have taken account of this new knowledge. If this involves duty holders making safety case material changes, they will be expected to inform HSE of the dates of these submissions.

To share learnings on the management of extreme weather hazards, a stakeholder virtual seminar will be held in Q1 2024.

International Regulators Forum (IRF) Perth October 2023

HSE attended the IRF AGM and conference in Perth on 1-6 October 2023 and presented on asset integrity and regulating renewable energy.

Key themes agreed amongst the regulators were:

- A continuing focus on asset and operating integrity. There was significant interest in the UK PSLP programme and also extreme weather for fixed and floating installations.
- Regulators will need to have the required technical knowledge to regulate the energy transition and should continue to share learnings as the sector develops.
- Decommissioning will be a growing area of focus and again it will be important to share learnings.

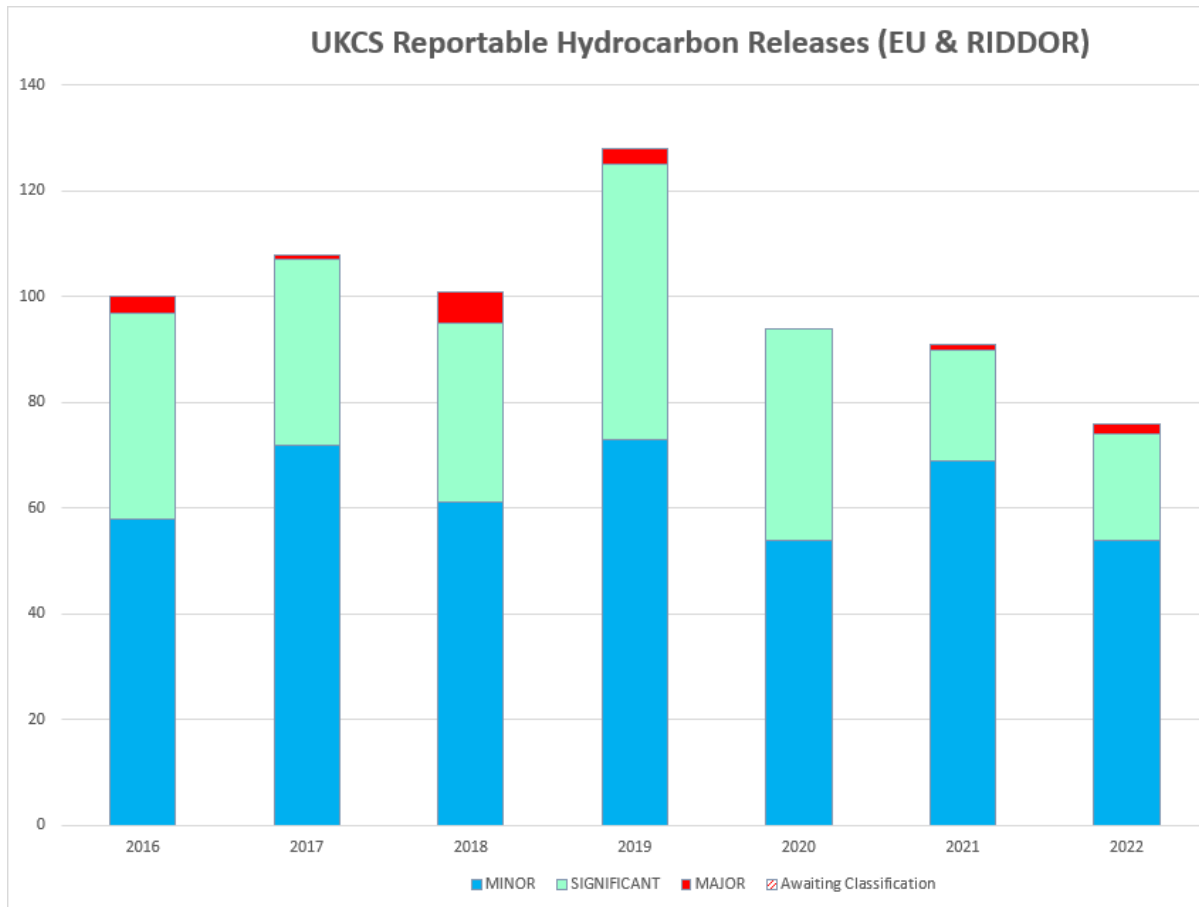
Hydrocarbon Releases (HCRs)

HCR performance in Q3 was a marked improvement over Q1/Q2 with only 14 reportable releases in the period (July – September) which is lower than the same period in 2022. The total number of reportable releases to the end of September was 65, if a similar Q4 performance can be achieved then 2023 performance will have improved significantly from the end of Q2 performance. HSE will continue to monitor performance and are also engaging with OEUK around potentially gathering data on non-reportable releases. This would be undertaken on an anonymised basis with the data being reported to OEUK.

Three HCRs remain unclassified but are currently under review. Year to date there have been no major releases however two releases did exceed the 300kg threshold for a major release. These releases were downgraded to significant based upon the escalation potential. The first incident was a 4Te gas release on a not permanently attended installation (NPAI). However, the release was ongoing for a number of weeks with only intermittent gas detection and there was no risk to personnel. The second incident resulted in a c 900kg gas release on a manned platform during a turnaround (TAR). There was no danger to personnel as the release occurred in a safe location, however the release occurred due to operational failures and led to normal vent paths for maintaining boundary isolations for the gas export riser becoming isolated.

Coarse analysis of the 2023 HCR has been undertaken with an estimated 60/40 split between asset integrity and operational integrity failures. Further analysis is required to identify any potential trends.

HSE met with the Norwegian Petroleum Safety Authority in October to discuss HCR performance and activities both regulators are undertaking to drive improvement. Norway is experiencing similar HCR performance issues, i.e., stagnation and struggling to reduce releases further. Agreement was reached that dialogue will be maintained and that both regulators will look to share information where appropriate.



Process Safety Leadership Principles (PSLP)

PSLP inspections are progressing as planned, with three inspections completed, and a further four planned for the remainder of the year. In discussion with a duty holder, HSE have also agreed to undertake an additional PSLP inspection which will be separate to the main programme. HSE intends to cease its targeted PSLP inspection programme at the end of the work year, but the embedding of PSLP across all duty holders will remain a focus for routine interventions going forward.

OEUK held a PSLP sharing learning session on the 3 October which was very well attended and included feedback from a 3rd party contractor who had been undertaking PSLP audits separate to the HSE inspections. Findings from these audits broadly aligned with the issues identified by HSE and discussions are ongoing with the 3rd party to determine their willingness to share their high level findings on an anonymised basis with the Operating Integrity Task Group (OITG).

The OITG is looking to invigorate participation and would welcome attendance from any interested parties who are able to contribute to the work of the group. Contractor process safety performance has been identified as an area of concern and it has been agreed this will form one of the initial workstreams.

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The Safe Isolation and Reinstatement of Plant (SIRP) working group has been re-focused on developing training and competence guidance for all staff involved in the SIRP process.

Evacuation, Escape and Rescue Technical Advisory Group (EERTAG)

EERTAG is a tripartite group which meets quarterly and has been recently restructured under co-chairing from OEUK and HSE. The Terms of Reference are currently under review and a plan of work being developed. Issues under consideration by EERTAG include; big persons offshore, lifeboat maintenance and escape system familiarisation.

Offshore Statistics & Regulatory Activity Report 2022

The Offshore Statistics & Regulatory Activity Report for 2022 will be issued shortly. The report provides details of HSE’s regulatory activity offshore during 2022 and offshore injuries and dangerous occurrences reported to HSE under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR).

4. Maintenance Backlog	All
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Maintenance backlog was discussed during the updates.

5. AOB	
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- None