

HSE Information Sheet

Testing of TEMPSC release gear

Offshore Information Sheet no. 10/2007

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Introduction

1. This notice is to draw the attention of the offshore industry to fully consider the risks associated with the testing of TEMPSC (totally enclosed motor propelled survival craft) release gear while TEMPSCs are suspended in the davits. It replaces Safety Notice 1/96 (SN 1/96) (issued Jan 2002) which has now been withdrawn.

Background

2. The failure to adequately secure the TEMPSC before testing has resulted in several fatal accidents. When the release mechanisms are to be tested in situ (without lowering the craft to the water), the craft should be secured to hang-off pendants, or secured by some other means, before operating the hook release mechanism. Generally, two pendants are attached to the craft, both of which are critical for its safe suspension; should a failure occur in any part of either pendant system, or if either of the systems is not properly connected to the TEMPSC, the craft will almost certainly fall to the sea.

Actions

3. The frequency and methods of testing TEMPSC release mechanisms must be reviewed by the duty holder. In determining frequency, the results of previous tests, manufacturers' recommendations and site specific conditions should be taken into account.
4. Where in situ testing is considered appropriate, the following actions should be taken:
 - a) Ensure that the hang-off pendants, or other means of security, are designed and constructed to reduce as far as is practicable the chance of incorrect location/attachment.
 - b) Ensure that test procedures are adequate to confirm the securing arrangements before testing the release mechanism.
 - c) Review test procedures to reduce to a minimum the risk of human error as a cause of system failure.
 - d) Ensure that measures are in place for monitoring compliance with and effectiveness of the testing arrangements.

Further information

5. Any queries relating to this notice should be addressed to:
Health and Safety Executive
Hazardous Installations Directorate
Offshore Division
Lord Cullen House
Fraser Place
Aberdeen
AB25 3UB

Tel: 01224 252500
Fax: 01224 252648

This information sheet contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do

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