

Offshore Major Accident Hazards Advisory Committee		OMAHAC/MIN/1/2016	
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Minutes of the Offshore Major Accident Hazards Advisory Committee Meeting held on 22nd March 2016 at Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen

Present

Chair Tony Hetherington HSE, Secretariat Mike Readitt HSE, Katrina Ross BROA, Richard Benzie IMCA, Mick Borwell Oil & Gas UK, Gavin Sutherland IADC, Jamieson Arnott Step Change, Andrew Taylor DECC, Tommy Campbell Unite, Paul Wilkins MCA, Bryan Monson HSENI and Simon Day HSE.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Wendy Kennedy DECC, Jake Molloy RMT and Les Linklater Step Change.

1. Introductions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to this the first meeting of the Offshore Major Accident Hazards Advisory Committee (OMAHAC). For the benefit of new members he confirmed that the committee had been established out of the requirements from Directive 2013/30/EU on the safety of offshore oil and gas operations, which required Member States to establish mechanisms for effective tripartite consultation. Such consultation would be between the competent authority, operators and owners, and worker representatives to consider and address major accident hazard prevention and associated environmental issues.
- 1.2 The Offshore Industry Advisory Committee (OIAC) was identified as the group that if re-constituted into a more strategic committee, could provide the mechanism to deliver the tripartite consultation the Directive required.
- 1.3 At the OIAC meeting on 27th Oct. 2015 members supported the proposals for the committee to be re-constituted into the Offshore Major Accident Hazards Advisory Committee and adopted the new terms of reference and ways of working.

Outstanding Actions from the OIAC meeting 27th Oct. 15

1.4 The following Actions were recorded:-

Action	Description	Status
1 Oct. 15	HSE to discuss with the CAA how a single industry helideck / helicopter could be established and report back at the March 2016 meeting.	Completed A draft proposals paper had been circulated prior to this meeting and will be discussed at Agenda Item 3.
2 Oct. 15	Discuss at the March 2016 meeting OMAHAC's chairing arrangements.	Completed To be discussed at Agenda Item 2.
3 Oct. 15	Oil & Gas UK to organise meeting(s) with industry to agree OMAHAC membership and communication arrangements with non OMAHAC members	Completed
4 Oct. 15	RMT to organise meeting(s) with union colleagues to agree OMAHAC membership and communication arrangements with non OMAHAC members	Completed
5 Oct. 15	HSE to review regulator representation at OMAHAC	Completed
6 Oct. 15	Members to identify nominations for OMAHAC Chair and Vice Chair by 31 st Dec. 15	Completed - only 1 nomination was received from IADC for O&GUK to be Chair / Vice Chair.

Minutes from the OIAC meeting held on 27th Oct. 2015

1.5 The minutes were circulated to members on 20th Nov. 15 and no comments were received, they were subsequently approved without change.

2. Nominations for OMAHAC Chair and Vice Chair

- 2.1 At the Oct. 15 meeting members supported having a Chair and Vice Chair and that these positions are rotated between regulators and industry. In the preparation for this meeting one nomination had been received supporting Oil & Gas UK to hold the position of Chair or Vice Chair. Oil & Gas UK had indicated their acceptance of the nomination for Vice Chair.
- 2.2 The Chair asked members if there were any other nominations for either Chair or Vice Chair, there were none. Subsequently, members were invited to support HSE retaining the Chair and for Mick Borwell to be elected as Vice Chair. There were no objections.
- 2.3 Members were also invited to comment on earlier proposals for the Chair to remain in office for 1 or 2 years. Members supported a 2 year term and that the industry Vice Chair would become the Chair at the end of their time in office and a new regulator Vice Chair be elected.

Action 1 March 2016

The Secretary to update the 'Ways of Working' to record the Chair and Vice Chair will hold office for 2 years.

- 2.4 It was agreed Mick Borwell Oil & Gas UK will automatically assume Chair of OMAHAC in March 2018 and a new regulator Vice Chair be elected (in line with the 'Ways of Working').

3. Proposals for a single industry working group to discuss 'Helideck matters'

- 3.1 A covering paper prepared by Simon Day (HSE) had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The paper confirmed discussions with industry on proposals for a single helideck working group had received support, although, further work was necessary to develop proposals for such a group's terms of reference and membership etc.
- 3.2 Simon confirmed there had already been favourable discussions held at HSSG to consider the rationalisation of existing helicopter safety groups. The consensus from members was that HSSG may be a viable option to be the single helideck working group.
- 3.3 Members indicated their support for the rationalisation of the number of 'heli' related working groups and for HSE to continue discussions with industry with a view to establishing proposals for the establishment of a new working group.

Action 2 March 2016

HSE to continue discussions with industry 'heli' related working groups with a view to providing proposals for establishing a single working group and an appropriate mandate and terms of reference. Details are to be presented at the Oct. 16 meeting.

4. The Offshore Safety Directive Regulator (OSDR) – The Competent Authority

4.1 Andrew Taylor (DECC) provided members with a presentation on the Competent Authority's (CA) role and work activities since the introduction of the Safety Case Regulations 2015. The key points were:-

- DECC and HSE working in partnership to form the OSDR to act as the CA responsible for implementing the requirements of the EU Directive on the safety of offshore oil and gas operations.
- A joint Memorandum of Understanding has been produced outlining the working arrangements intended to co-ordinate functions between DECC and HSE to operate effectively as the CA.
- The direction and strategy for the OSDR is set by a Senior Oversight Board and implemented by an Operational Management Team.
- An OSDR web site is been established and is accessible from the HSE website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/osdr/index.htm>).
- An online portal is expected to be available, starting in 2016 for Safety Cases and finalised in 2017 for all notifications and submissions to the CA.
- Safety Case assessment and acceptance procedures are available online.
- A joint intervention planning system has been established and joint DECC / HSE inspections are now taking place.

4.2 Members asked if the regulator was in a position to provide any 'lessons learned' or additional guidance from safety case submissions that could be shared with industry to improve submissions. They also stated that it would be helpful if industry could have greater clarification and advice on commonly used phrases, for example, "suitable measures". The regulator confirmed they would look at this and liaise with Oil and Gas UK accordingly.

4.3 There was also an enquiry raised over the transparency of the number of interventions particularly associated with a single installation. DECC confirmed they would look at this and the joint intervention strategy to ensure appropriate future intervention planning.

4.4 It was agreed to have future updates on the work / activities of the Competent Authority as a standing agenda item.

Action 3 March 2016

The Secretary to arrange for the Competent Authority to update OMAHAC on its activities at future meetings.

5. Plan of work for OMAHAC to manage and control offshore major accident hazards

5.1 The Chair introduced this discussion item reminding members that this Committee is now a strategically focused group, and as such, it would not be involved in the production of guidance, nor would it become involved in the general detail of issues associated with major accident mitigation and associated environmental issues. For example, the Committee would now consider how the EU Offshore Directive was being applied, deliberate on the ways of working of the OSDR or to identify key issues and empower others to address them.

- 5.2 Paul Wilkins (MCA) was invited to advise members on the broader implications of two issues, one associated with non UK flag vessels that do not comply with international standards entering UK waters and the other covering guidance on decommissioning of offshore structures.

Vessel safety – MODU Code

- 5.3 Members were advised the MODU code provides underpinning marine standards for the safety of vessels and their crew, yet there are some non UK vessels entering UK waters that do not comply with these standards. Consideration should be given by the regulator if they wish to enforce the marine codes and if there is a need to establish benchmarks on standards and certification.
- 5.4 The members viewed this as a serious issue, but not one that OMAHAC should be involved in, unless there was a risk of a collision with an installation. BROA offered to work with the MCA to consider the issue of vessels not complying with international standards and to identify any implications for the oil and gas industry.

Guidance on decommissioning of offshore structures

- 5.5 The MCA had produced an information note to members informing them of the certification issues associated with offshore structures (FPSO, FSU FSO's etc.) to enter UK ports or anchorage, particularly if they are not 'registered' and / or 'classed'.
- 5.6 Ex-offshore installations that become a vessel or floating object (once disconnected from the sea bed) should be certified under the Load Line Regulations which apply as soon as the vessel is in UK waters. The MCA had now produced guidance that is applicable to such structures. Members noted this issue and the MCA guidance.

Workforce engagement

- 5.7 Jamieson Arnott (Step Change), advised members of their ongoing commitment to workforce engagement and working with other groups such a WEST to take forward new initiatives and sharing this with OMAHAC. The Chair questioned how this committee could support such work, as it is not there to develop guidance or share lessons learned but to identify issues and enable others to address them.
- 5.8 Members agreed with this view, and suggested further work could be done around safety representative training. Members were asked to discuss this and return to OMAHAC with views on possible new workforce engagement activities and the need for further / updated OPITO training for safety representatives.

Action 4 March 2016

All members to obtain views from their constituent groups on possible initiatives to progress workforce engagement and on further or updated training for safety representatives, ready for the Oct. 2016 meeting.

- 5.9 DECC raised that verification bodies had suggested that major accident hazard awareness training was a possible issue for OMAHAC to consider. The Chair stated that HSE had already undertaken work on what major accident awareness training may look like and Step Change confirmed they had GAP analysis tools available that covered major accident hazard awareness and control. To determine if reviewing / revising major accident awareness training to broaden industry's knowledge and competence is a subject for OMAHAC to address, the following actions were placed.

Action 5 March 2016

HSE will prepare a discussion paper to outline current major accident awareness training, the scope for enhancing it, the benefits and the potential issues for the industry. To be circulated to members in June 2016.

Action 6 March 2016

All members to review the major accident hazard training paper and establish views on what aspects of this OMAHAC should / can take forward as part of its future plan of work. To be discussed at the Oct. 16 meeting.

6. Any other business

Extending Product Safety Directives - ATEX and Machinery / Pressure Equipment Directives to equipment used on mobile offshore units

- 6.1 Katrina Ross (BROA) brought to the committee's attention the European Commission's study into the possible extension of these Directives. There was no response required from OMAHAC at this time, other than members to note the possible developments for the industry. As the study moves forward BROA was asked to liaise with the relevant HSE teams as necessary.

Corporate Major Accident Prevention Policy (CMAPP)

- 6.2 BROA had asked HSE if further clarity could be provided by the OSDR on the level of detail required in CMAPPs to enable industry to properly implement such a policy. The Chair confirmed this matter had been passed to the relevant HSE Energy Division team who would provide further detail.

Hydrocarbon extraction in the EU (HBREF)

- 6.3 BROA indicated there were concerns relating to this project, as a recent draft report on a gap analysis concluded that industry environmental guidance and standards were incomplete and environmental performance was inconsistent.
- 6.4 DECC confirmed that they lead the UK's response to this project and HSE, IADC and Oil & Gas UK all have input to the associated technical working group. DECC are in discussions with the European Commission as there are existing environmental measures already in place and any further prescriptive measures would not be seen as an appropriate way forward.

Date of the next OMAHAC Meeting

- 6.5 The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 25th October 2016 at Lord Cullen House, Aberdeen.