

Our Vision

Health and safety risks in the Australian offshore petroleum industry are properly controlled.

This series of messages is aimed at keeping you informed of the operations of NOPSA. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the [distribution list](#).

Reminder to Operators: Please circulate this newsletter to your workforce.

PERSONNEL:

- The recruitment period has closed for recently advertised positions and NOPSA is pleased to have received a good response to all of the vacancies.

INDUSTRY MATTERS:

- NOPSA reminds operators of the commitment to improve safety performance by 25% year-on-year pledged by CEO's at APPEA's 2007 National Safety Conference. Those commitments included:
 - improving collaboration on safety issues in the industry
 - fostering cultural understanding and developing a caring culture
 - further developing workforce competency
 - developing and advancing senior leadership safety commitment
- NOPSA reminds industry that the period for comment on the recently commissioned [research report on accommodation standards](#)¹ in the offshore petroleum industry closes on 30 November 2007.
- NOPSA continues to promote the Australian Safety and Compensation Council's (ASCC) [National OHS Strategy 2002-2012](#)². The strategy provides the basis for developing sustainable, safe and healthy work environments and for reducing the number of people hurt or killed at work.
 - In support of the ASCC strategy, in which provision of practical guidance is identified as an area for national action, and in particular as musculoskeletal injuries are identified as one of the top three identified risks, NOPSA recommends that Operators and employers consider the newly declared [National Standard for Manual Tasks \(2007\)](#)³ and the National Code of Practice for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders from Performing Manual Tasks at Work (2007).

¹ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/document/Discussion%20Paper%20on%20Offshore%20Accommodation%20Standards.pdf>

² <http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/HealthSafety/OHSstrategy/NationalOHSStrategy2002-2012.htm>

³ <http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/HealthSafety/HazardsSafetyIssues/ManualTasks/ManualTasks.htm>

- NOPSA encourages companies to participate in the [Safe Work Australia Week](#)⁴ programme, occurring from 21 to 27 October.
- NOPSA reminds industry that they are encouraged to make submissions to the review of the operational effectiveness of NOPSA commissioned by DITR. [Details of the timing and submission process](#)⁵ can be found on the Department's website.

NOPSA CORPORATE GOVERNANCE:

- NOPSA has issued its [Annual Operating Plan](#)⁶ for 2007/08.
NOPSA has committed to a series of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) in the areas of Facility Integrity, Lifting Operations, Training and Competency, OHS Strategy, Marine Operations and Auditing the Auditors. These KPI's can be viewed in NOPSA's Annual Operating Plan.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS:

- NOPSA met with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to discuss potential opportunities for joint inspections.
- Bill Tinapple, Director of the Petroleum and Royalties Division of the WA Department of Industry and Resources spoke to NOPSA staff on Friday 21st September as part of a programme to introduce key stakeholders to staff members. Bill spoke about the history of offshore regulatory arrangements, the role of the Designated Authority and the interfaces between the staff of the respective agencies.
- International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) representatives met with NOPSA to discuss marine vessels in the OHS regime under the PSLA67.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES:

- NOPSA has prepared a document on completing a [Provisional Improvement Notice](#)⁷ to provide further guidance for HSRs.
- NOPSA reminds HSR's of the dedicated [online forum](#)⁸, funded by NOPSA, which enables continuing online discussions, including many of those topics discussed at the [HSR Forum](#)⁹, 7 August 2007 (the safety case regime, communication between HSR's and management, standards, safety culture, noise and fatigue, risk identification, and emergency response). Currents topics of interest on the forum include maintenance and safety culture.

⁴ <http://www.ascc.gov.au/ascc/NewsEvents/SafeWorkAusWeek/>

⁵ <http://www.industry.gov.au/nopsa>

⁶ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/corporate/>

⁷ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/document/Guidance%20on%20completing%20a%20PIN.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.hsronline.com.au>

⁹ <http://www.2007safetyconference.com.au/>

INTERNATIONAL:

NOPSA notes with deep regret the [deaths of 3 men](#)¹⁰ working on a gas rig standby vessel in the North Sea. Latest information indicates this may be a confined space incident.

CONFERENCES:

- The International Regulators' Forum (IRF) Offshore Safety conference is fast approaching. The planning committee has developed an outstanding agenda and recruited an exceptional line up of speakers. Regulators and industry safety leaders from around the world are encouraged to participate. The more diverse the views and experiences, the more we all benefit. The conference will be held in Miami USA 4-6 December. The [complete agenda](#)¹¹ is available on the [conference website](#)¹².
- NOPSA will be attending and presenting at a half day forum held by the Commonwealth Government Seafarer's Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare). The Seacare Maritime OHS Forum WA is being held at the Fremantle Maritime Museum on the afternoon of Tuesday 16th of October. The forum is free of charge and is intended to share and improve knowledge of Maritime OHS trends, issues and gaps. People who wish to attend the forum are advised to visit the [Seacare Authority website](#)¹³ for further details.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES in September 2007:

Disclaimer: Activity and incident quantities identified here may vary as further information becomes available. Statistics are prepared just prior to the last Friday of the month.

Safety Case Assessment

One new and two revised Safety Cases were accepted.

One revised Safety Case was withdrawn.

As at 28 September 2007:

Five new Safety Cases and one request for consent to operate outside a safety case are still under assessment.

29 revised Safety Cases are still under assessment, of which 21 are five year revisions of a large group of related facilities.

Three scopes of validation are still under assessment.

One request for exemption is on hold.

¹⁰ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/humber/7009383.stm

¹¹ <http://www.mms.gov/international/PDF/Finalagenda2.pdf>

¹² <http://www.mms.gov/international/IRF/IRF.htm>

¹³ www.seacare.gov.au

Inspections

Seven inspections were conducted.

Issues identified included: regular auditing of inspection, testing or maintenance regimes as critical escalation barriers; knockout drum protection; inspection regime and screening process for vibration induced fatigue; provision of updated legislation to HSRs / workforce.

Incidents & Complaints:

A total of 28 Incidents and Complaints were reported this month, three of which were major.

18 Dangerous Occurrences and no Lost Time Injuries were reported.

There were two complaints reported. One queried the definition of confined spaces and the other questioned the accuracy of an incident report and therefore the subsequent level of investigation.

Of the reported incidents, points to note include:

- One petroleum liquid release greater than 12 500 Litres
- Two fires – galley (fryer) and vessel engine (out of jurisdiction at time)
- One dropped object could have caused death or serious injury
- Three significant hydrocarbon gas releases
- Four incidents could have caused lost time of three days or more
- Three were events requiring immediate further investigation
- Four unplanned events occurred where emergency response plans were initiated.

Enforcement

No Improvement Notices were issued.

One letter of warning/advice was issued for anomalies in relation to the use of General Work Permits in Hazardous Areas

Past issues of this newsletter are available from the NOPSA website at:

http://www.nopsa.gov.au/CEO_emails/