



From CEO John Clegg

We continue to work closely with industry to achieve a safe and secure offshore working environment. This includes close cooperation with the workforce and their representatives to achieve high standards of safety awareness. I am pleased therefore to draw your attention to a new Health & Safety Representative (HSR) handbook that has been developed by NOPSA and published on our website. This will assist HSRs in carrying out their important functions. I also draw your attention to some new Safety Alerts mentioned in this newsletter - local and international – which provide valuable information. Finally, as a delegate to the recent APPEA Oil & Gas Conference in Perth, I noted the significant potential of the industry and the many challenges it faces. I also was impressed with the willingness of participants to keep seeking ways to improve processes and come up with new ideas. However, one area that should never be overlooked is the need for high quality safety leadership at all levels within an organisation.

Industry matters

New incident reporting system now in place

The phone number for notifying NOPSA of incidents, dangerous occurrences and complaints changed on April 22. Operators reporting an accident or dangerous occurrence should now ring: 08 6461 7090 and respond to the prompts on the telephone answering machine. For serious accidents and fatalities there is an option to speak to a representative of NOPSA. For other reportable incidents it will be sufficient to leave a message and NOPSA will respond. Please update your records with the new number.

Risks from 240 V hand tools in work settings

NOPSA has issued a [Safety Alert](#)¹ highlighting the dangers of using 240 V electric hand tools in offshore settings where their power supply leads could easily be damaged by nearby activities such as cutting, grinding or welding. NOPSA recently issued a prohibition notice under such circumstances. The risk of electrocution from using 240 V hand tools can be eliminated by substituting battery powered hand tools, air powered tools or tools powered by an isolated 110 V centre-tapped earth transformer.

Comments sought on draft validation advice

Questions have been received from industry representatives on the independent validation required for proposed facilities or proposed modifications to existing facilities. In response, NOPSA has prepared a set of draft [policy and guidelines](#)² aimed at providing assistance and clarification to industry participants on this aspect of the MoSOF regulations. Your comments on these are invited by 6 June.

Workshops on competency and noise

As noted in the previous newsletter, NOPSA is organising workshops focusing on offshore competency and noise management. These workshops will be held in [Perth](#)³ on 27 May and [Melbourne](#)⁴ on 29 May. Speakers drawn from industry will share their experiences and knowledge and will be joined by presenters from NOPSA.

International

Alert on helicopter engine overspeed sensors

A Safety Alert has been issued by the [International Association of Oil & Gas Producers](#)⁵ in relation to Sikorsky S76+ and S76++ helicopters fitted with Turbomeca Ariel 1S or 1S1 engines. These engines are fitted with engine overspeed sensors incorporated into a Tachometer Box. In response to problems with these sensors, modified tachometer boxes have been recommended by the manufacturer.

Report on ageing facilities offshore

The Petroleum Safety Authority of Norway (PSA) has completed a report on [life extension](#)⁶ for ageing process facilities offshore. The report describes likely areas in the facility at risk, as well as the functional barriers needed to protect against such risks.

Stakeholder relations

Handbook for HSRs

NOPSA has developed a [handbook to assist HSRs](#)⁷ in the performance of their role; this may be downloaded from the NOPSA web-site.

The Handbook will be updated to allow for the proclamation of the Offshore Petroleum Act when that occurs, and will then also be made available in printed form.

A range of HSRs, union representatives and HSR trainers were consulted during development of this Handbook, and where possible their comments were incorporated. However, should stakeholders wish to make further comments for inclusion in the OPA version of the Handbook they may send their comments to ray.wells@nopsa.gov.au

Winner safety suggestions at APPEA exhibition

Congratulations to Neil Shaw, Team Leader Sub-Surface IM&T, Shell Development, who won the safety suggestions competition run by NOPSA at its stand at the recent APPEA Oil & Gas exhibition at the Perth Convention Centre. Neil's safety initiatives included computer-based HSE training for all staff. Suggestions from others included offshore survival and well control competency. Challenges to OHS mentioned by entrants included: retention of staff and company safety culture; fatigue; motor vehicle accidents; hand safety; excessive manual handling; depression.



NOPSA team leader Kevin Clary (left) presents Neil Shaw with restaurant vouchers. Right: the NOPSA display at the APPEA exhibition

Website

Minister's address

The opening [address](#)⁸ at the APPEA Oil & Gas Conference 2008 by the Minister for Resources & Energy, the Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP provided a strategic overview of the state of Australia's energy needs and production. The Minister emphasised the importance of a safe working environment and urged the industry to seek further improvements. The closing address at the conference by APPEA Chief Executive Belinda Robinson gave a timely insight into where Australia is headed energy-wise and is recommended [reading](#).⁹

NOPSA personnel

New inspector

NOPSA welcomes new OHS inspector, Stephen D'Souza. Stephen, a marine engineer, spent the last eight years working with the Australian Marine Safety Authority (AMSA) as a marine surveyor. Prior to that he spent five years as a maintenance specialist for FPSOs and previously gained seven years sea-going experience rising to the rank of chief engineer.

Regulatory activities

As at 24th April 2008

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

Safety Cases (SC)

- Seven new SC are being assessed.
- Two revised SC were accepted.
- 12 revised SC are being assessed.

Scopes of Validation (SoV)

- Four SoV were agreed.
- 14 SoV are under review

Diving Safety Management Systems (DSMS)

- One DSMS revision has been accepted and one is being assessed.

Pipeline Safety Management Plans (PSMP)

- One PSMP is being assessed.

Field Development Plans (FDP)

- One FDP is being assessed.

Inspections

Six inspections were conducted. Subjects of interest included:

- Hazardous areas
- Fire equipment checks
- Electrical equipment
- Training and Competency
- Maintenance management
- Noise
- Food safety

Incidents and complaints

Two Lost Time Injuries were reported. These resulted from:

- Fracture from trip/fall
- Laceration from exposed metal

24 Dangerous Occurrences were reported. Notable incident types included:

- Six could have caused serious injury or death – three dropped objects
- Two fire/explosions
- Three significant gas releases
- One near collision

One complaint was received regarding lack of appropriate onshore management support.

Enforcement

In relation to an investigation 11 notices of Removal of Plant or Sample were issued.

Three Improvement Notices were issued. Matters included competency and provision of information in appropriate languages.

Three Prohibition Notices were issued. Activities prohibited included:

- Use of portable 240 V power tools
- Use of Marine Riser, Guideline and Pod line tensioners.
- Inappropriate connection of utility systems to process systems.

Subscribe

[Past issues of this newsletter¹⁰](#) are available from the NOPSA website. Operators and other employers are encouraged to circulate this newsletter to their workforce. Please add your details to our [distribution list¹¹](#) to receive future copies of this newsletter.

Find out more

¹ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/alert/>

² <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/safety.asp#draft>

³ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/document/Announcement%20-%20Noise%20&%20Competency%20May%20Workshop%20Perth.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.nopsa.gov.au/document/Announcement%20-%20Noise%20&%20Competency%20May%20Workshop%20Melbourne.pdf>

⁵ <http://info.ogp.org.uk/safety/>

⁶ <http://www.ptil.no/news/report-on-life-extension-for-ageing-process-facilities-offshore-article4447-79.html>

⁷ http://www.nopsa.gov.au/document/HSR_Handbook.pdf

⁸ <http://minister.ret.gov.au/TheHonMartinFergusonMP/Pages/2008APPEACONFERENCE.aspx>

⁹

http://www.appea.com.au/content/pdfs_docs_xls/NewsMedia/APPEAMediaReleases/appea_chief_executive_belinda_robinson_closing_address.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.nopsa.gov.au/CEO_emails/

¹¹ Email: information@nopsa.gov.au