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Offshore helicopter industry report updated



Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

A review of the Australian offshore helicopter industry's safety and sustainability framework has highlighted the need for continued regulatory reform to meet the needs of an expanding offshore oil and gas sector, according to NOPSA and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

The updated Hart Report, prepared by Hart Aviation, is designed to be read in conjunction with the original report commissioned by NOPSA in 2006. The Hart Report provides an analysis of aviation services available to the offshore petroleum industry by commercial and other helicopter operators.

NOPSA CEO, Jane Cutler, said the updated report more accurately reflects the increased activity within the industry and offers a snapshot of how helicopter operations need to be considered in the broader context of health and safety regulation on offshore facilities.

"NOPSA has read the Hart Report with great interest because as the national offshore petroleum health and safety regulator, we don't deal directly with air safety but we do liaise with CASA over our expectations once a helicopter reaches the helipad of a facility," said Ms Cutler.

"NOPSA is very keen to work with CASA on strengthening and clarifying safety regulations involved in transferring workers to and from offshore facilities. I believe this collaborative approach is important in ensuring integrated and robust regulation of the Australian oil and gas industry."

CASA's Director of Aviation Safety, John McCormick, said current aviation regulations cover the safety of helicopter operations to offshore platforms, however these can be improved.

"We will be drafting revised regulations specifically tailored for the type of helicopter operations that service the oil and gas sector," said Mr McCormick.

"CASA will develop a draft of Part 133 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations – *air transport operations rotorcraft* – for consultation with the aviation industry and other interested parties. The original Hart Report, released in January 2007, and the 2010 Update, are available on NOPSA's website.

More information about NOPSA can be found at nopsa.gov.au. For more information about CASA go to casa.gov.au.

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