

Presentation: NOPSEMA, HSRs and the Offshore Workforce

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Slide 1

Before starting I would like to acknowledge the incident and fatalities that occurred on the Stena Clyde earlier this year. NOPSEMA's investigation into this incident is ongoing.

Slide 2 to 4:

I will briefly describe NOPSEMA and its three core areas.

1. Compliance – under which NOPSEMA conducts safety case assessments, facility inspections and incident investigations.
2. Improvement – This includes the promotion of offshore health and safety in the Australian oil and gas industry.
3. Governance – fostering effective professional relationships between industry and other stakeholders.

(Further background information on NOPSEMA is available at nopsema.gov.au)

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Why involve the workforce with regards to safety?

Audience answers:

- a sense of ownership assists to improve safety outcomes
- consultation - the workforce is in the frontline, and understands the real hazards that affect them
- buy-in
- Understanding of the residual or accepted risk – never risk free.
- Accuracy – the workforce knows what actually happens, and is in the best position to come up with the most appropriate solutions, and practical outcomes.

Slide 7:

The OPGGSA legislation is administered by NOPSEMA and reflects Lord Cullen's recommendations following the Piper Alpha disaster, particularly in relation to workforce involvement and HSRs.

Slide 8/9/10

NOPSEMA resources for HSRs

- accredits training providers to ensure current, accurate and quality training opportunities for HSRs
- HSR forums, such as this one
- support from the NOPSEMA Inspector during planned inspections

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Inspectors meet with HSR's around 95% of the time, in some cases it is not appropriate or possible, such as when inspecting pipelines and not normally manned platforms.

**Audience feedback on their relationship with the OHS regulatory specialist/inspector:**

- Good relationship with inspector to openly discuss safety issues.
- Ask about training qualifications, satisfaction with training.
- Open dialogue, advice and guidance.
- Fostering productive working relationships.

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HSRs sometimes choose to prepare for NOPSEMA's inspection. This is not a regulatory requirement but can be beneficial.

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OPGGSA Schedule 3 Clause 80

(5) As soon as practicable after receiving a report, the operator of a facility must give a copy of the report, together with any written comment made by NOPSEMA on the report:

- (a) if there is a least one health and safety committee in respect of some or all of the members of the workforce—to each such committee; and
- (b) if there is no such committee in respect of some or all of the members of the workforce, but some or all of those members (in respect of which there is no such committee) are in at least one designated work group for which there is a health and safety representative—to each such health and safety representative.

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More information on planned inspections is available on our website.

The HSR page on the NOPSEMA website provides useful information, invitation to subscribe to HSR-specific information.

The HSR Handbook is available online and a copy has been provided for you in your satchels today. This handbook has been recently revised to reflect changes in the legislation – no other content has been changed within this revision.

Slide 18/19

Resources for everyone:

Include Safety Alerts, which highlight safety issues observed by NOPSEMA OHS inspectors during their visits to offshore facilities.

Other industry organisations, such as APPEA, as well as state and federal government agencies and international regulators issue their own safety alerts which can be an additional source of useful information.

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NOPSEMA has also issued a series of safety case guidance notes, each of which has undergone a consultation phase to seek feedback from the workforce prior to publication.

The latest SC Guidance note is entitled "Involving the workforce" and your feedback on this draft document would be appreciated. A copy of the draft document has been provided on a USB stick accompanied by the feedback form.

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Lord Cullen recommended that company personnel be involved in the drafting of safety cases for their own facilities, and this is reflected within the OPGGS(S) Regulations.

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For those who attended last year's forum, you may remember we conducted a workshop asking for your experiences in being involved in safety case development and revision. The comments received through this workshop have been incorporated into the current draft guidance note.

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Feedback is sought on NOPSEMA's draft guidance notes with regards to safety case development. Once comments have been considered, and if there is sufficient interest, workshops will be conducted.