

NOPSEMA

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and
Environmental Management Authority

Presentation to MUA FPSO Conference

16th July 2012

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The MUA has requested NOPSEMA
to give a presentation on:-

- The Safety Case &
- HSR Powers



NOPSEMA

- NOPSEMA is a Commonwealth Statutory Authority with an Advisory Board and Public Service Act staff
- NOPSEMA regulates in Commonwealth Waters



NOPSEMA's Role

- To work with industry, facility operators, the workforce and other authorities to ensure health and safety risks in the offshore petroleum industry are properly controlled
- To administer offshore petroleum health and safety legislation
- To promote the continuous improvement of health and safety offshore



Workforce Involvement

- The Operator should take all reasonably practicable steps to develop, in consultation with the workforce, a policy relating to occupational health and safety that:-
 - will enable the Operator and members of the workforce to cooperate effectively in promoting and developing measures to ensure the occupational health and safety of persons at the facility, and
 - will provide adequate mechanisms for reviewing the effectiveness of the measures, and
 - Provides for the making of an agreement that provides appropriate mechanisms for continuing consultation between the Operator and the workforce.



Workforce Involvement - Safety Cases

- There must be effective consultation and participation of the workforce for a facility in the development or revision of the safety case for that facility.
- The safety case should provide for the effective consultation and participation of the workforce, so that they are informed about the hazards and risks they are exposed to at the facility.



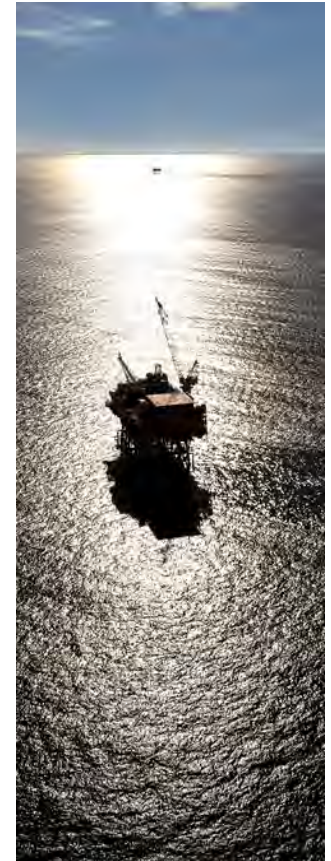
What requires a Safety Case ?



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What is a Safety Case ?

- A safety case must be produced by the operator of a facility
- It must identify the safety critical aspects of the facility, both technical and managerial.
- Appropriate performance standards must be defined for the operation of the safety critical aspects
- The workforce must be involved
- The safety case is produced in the knowledge that it will be scrutinised by a competent and independent regulator.



Health and Safety Representatives and Safety Committees

- For the offshore oil and gas industry, where did the requirement for workforce involvement and HSRs come from?



Cullen Enquiry – Piper Alpha HSRs and safety committees

The regulatory body, operators and contractors should support and encourage the workforce to be involved in safety

The operators procedures involving in-line management of operations should involve the workforce in safety and should form part of the Operators SMS

Safety Representatives should be protected from victimisation



Health and Safety Representatives

- NOPSEMA encourages the HSR approach
- Encourages consultation and communication between the Operator and the Workforce
- HSRs have certain powers
- HSRs must be trained



Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs)

- Setting up designated work groups

- designated work groups must be set up by the facility operator if requested by the workforce, or:-
- the facility operator can set up the designated work groups in consultation with the workforce, then:-
- To represent each designated work group (DWG), one person from each DWG is either elected or selected as a HSR by the members of that DWG only.



HSRs - Powers

- A HSR can carry out inspections of the workplace
- He can request a NOPSEMA Inspector to carry out an inspection of the workplace
- He can accompany a NOPSEMA Inspector during his inspection.
- Represent his work group on the Health and Safety Committee
- Investigate complaints made by members of the workforce
- With the consent of a group member he can request to be present at interviews with that group member
- Request access to necessary information
- Issue a Provisional Improvement Notice (PIN)



HSRs – Powers – (cont.)

- Can initiate immediate “stop-work” procedures if there is an immediate threat to health and safety and the supervisor is unavailable
- Can appeal to Fair Work Australia against a NOPSEMA Inspector’s decision to vary or cancel a PIN
- Request NOPSEMA to institute proceedings for offences if they have not been commenced within 6 months of the alleged breach.
- Get assistance from a consultant if NOPSEMA or the Operator has agreed to it in writing
- Request the Operator for a consultant to accompany the HSR during an interview between a DWG member and a NOPSEMA Inspector or the Operator.



HSRs - NOPSEMA Inspections

- The HSRs are notified about purpose of a NOPSEMA inspection at the facility
- HSRs are invited to attend and get involved in the NOPSEMA inspection entry and exit discussion meetings
- The NOPSEMA Inspector will meet separately with the HSRs as a group (always included as an inspection item)
- The operator must give a copy of the NOPSEMA inspection report to the HSRs/HS committee
- If an enforcement notice is issued, the operator must give the HSRs a copy



HSRs – Safety Committee

- Help the operator to develop, implement, review and update measures designed to protect the workforce
- Facilitate cooperation
- Disseminate information



HSRs – Safety Committee

- Must be set up if requested by a HSR
- Each workgroup to be represented by its HSR
- Up to half of the members to be selected by the operator, (or as specified in an **agreement**)
- Held at least every 3 months
- Minutes kept for at least 3 years
- Meetings **procedure** to be agreed by the safety committee

Questions?