What to expect from your inspector

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Monadelphous HSR Forum
18 November & 10 December 2020
Welcome!

• Thank you for volunteering
• The HSR role:
  • Challenging
  • Rewarding
  • Vital
• It requires:
  • Tenacity
  • Leadership
  • Relationships
• We value our relationship with HSRs
Who we are?

• Independent Commonwealth agency
  • 120 staff
  • Independent of Government parties and policy
  • Independent funding

• Safety team:
  • 30 inspectors
  • Decades of often global experience
  • Mostly engineers and mariners from the offshore workforce

• About me...
Offshore industry activity map

Facility types

Fixed facilities:
- Pipeline
- FPSO
- Platform NIM
- Platform Mul
- Subsea infrastructure

Geographic activity

7 Mobile offshore drilling units
7 Vessels
How does NOPSEMA work?

• Role of NOPSEMA
  • CEO authorises Inspectors

• Role of Inspector
  • Facility focal point (for OHS)
  • Conducts inspections
  • Issues notices
  • Provides advice and insight
  • Focused on prevention

• Three types of inspections:
  • OHS
  • Well Integrity
  • Environment
NOPSEMA introduces integrated inspections
Choosing the inspection scope

- Endeavour to cover all MAEs over five years
- Risk-based selection
- Annual focus inspection topics
- Considers past performance
  - Previous inspection findings and/or enforcement
  - Notifications of accidents and dangerous occurrences and/or complaints
- Based on the unique nature of each facility
Preparing the OHS inspection

• Document review
  • Safety case
  • Performance standards
  • Internal documents
  • Review previous recommendations
  • What are the operator’s commitments?

• Onshore meeting
  • Asset Manager
  • Technical Authorities
  • Review of records
The offshore OHS inspection

• Commitments are tested through a sampling approach
• Is the control measure:
  • Implemented?
  • Functional?
  • Maintained?
  • Audited?
  • Managed by competent people?
HSRs during an OHS inspection

• Encouraged to attend entry and exit meetings
• Separate meeting with inspectors to:
  • Review effectiveness of workplace arrangements
  • Discuss issues and concerns, previous report findings
  • Where requested, meeting details remain confidential, however OHS issues raised may be pursued with the operator
• HSRs are encouraged to accompany inspectors
• “General OHS observations”
How NOPSEMA engages with HSRs

**HOW NOPSEMA ENGAGES WITH HSRs**

**BEFORE AN INSPECTION**
- Prior to a planned inspection, NOPSEMA inspectors confirm the dates of the inspection with the facility operator, issue an inspection brief and hold an onshore meeting with the facility operator.
- All HSRs have the power to request NOPSEMA to conduct an inspection at their workplace.

**IN 2017, NOPSEMA INSPECTORS MET WITH HSRs 80 TIMES, IN 100% OF FACILITY-BASED OHS INSPECTIONS**

**DURING AN INSPECTION**
- During an inspection, NOPSEMA Inspectors hold entry and exit meetings with the facility operator, meet privately with HSRs, and provide an exit brief for the facility operator.
- Inspection scope items include major accident event and OSH control measures, previous inspection recommendations and enforcement actions, reported incidents and dangerous occurrences, and requests and/or complaints.
- Where necessary, NOPSEMA Inspectors will initiate enforcement action.

**AFTER AN INSPECTION**
- HSRs have the power to accompany NOPSEMA inspectors during any inspection and to be present at interviews between NOPSEMA inspectors and work group members.

**IN 2017, NOPSEMA INSPECTORS MADE 11 RECOMMENDATIONS* RESULTING FROM THEIR MEETINGS WITH HSRs.**
- Three to address safety issues raised during the meeting.
- Three to ensure all HSRs receive training (or to post/update a list of HSRs on the facility noticeboard) and to implement workplace arrangements.
- Four to address resource and communication issues.

* A recommendation requires the facility operator to implement corrective actions and report action progress to NOPSEMA.
Working with your offshore teams
Help us to help you

• Our meetings with HSRs work best when:
  • HSRs hold regular HSR meetings
  • Minutes of their meetings are recorded
  • OHS issues are identified and actions are tracked

• Minutes are an important way to communicate between swings and shifts

• Minutes are “evidence” of whether workplace arrangements are effective
  • Provide support for actions and recommendations
After the inspection

- Inspector writes the draft report
- Holds an onshore meeting with operator Management
- NOPSEMA issues the report
  - Findings
  - Recommendations/actions
  - (in addition to) enforcement, if appropriate
- Operator must provide a copy of the report to the HS Committee and HSRs, where relevant
Outside of inspections

HSRs can contact their focal point inspector for advice and guidance
  • Talking through an issue
  • Interpreting legislation or company documents
  • Use of powers
Support of HSRs outside of a planned inspection

In the last of the Regulator (Issue 1: 2018) NOPSEMA described how it engages all Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs), no matter their employer, during facility-based inspections. Further to this, NOPSEMA provides HSRs with ongoing support outside of planned inspections.

HSRs can contact the NOPSEMA focal point inspector for their facility to raise any concerns or to ask for assistance and advice. NOPSEMA focal point inspectors are more than happy to assist and advise HSRs in:

- finding resolutions to safety concerns
- working with facility management to resolve ongoing issues
- understanding and exercising their powers.

HSRs can call or email the NOPSEMA focal point inspector for their facility. If the inspector’s contact details are not known, HSRs can contact NOPSEMA’s office and ask to speak to their inspector.

Perth (08) 6138 8700 | Melbourne (03) 8866 5700 | e: information@nopsema.gov.au

If the focal point inspector is not available, HSRs can speak with another member of the inspection team who will be able to assist. All conversations between a HSR and NOPSEMA are confidential and are not reported to the facility operator unless the HSR requests the matter to be escalated.

In the event that HSRs are not able to reach a resolution with facility management, HSRs can contact their focal point inspector or NOPSEMA to request an inspection.

Inspections conducted in response to HSR feedback have, in the past, resulted in enforcement actions including prohibition notices and improvement notices.

NOPSEMA maintains a dedicated HSR web page on our public website which can be accessed at nopsema.gov.au/safety/health-and-safety-representatives/

NOPSEMA has also developed and published a HSR handbook to assist HSRs in understanding and performing their role.

HSRs can subscribe to receive HSR-specific email updates as well as safety, well integrity and environmental management news at nopsema.gov.au/subscribe.

NOPSEMA strongly encourages all HSR to subscribe to the Regulator and, if interested, printed copies can be provided to offshore facilities by contacting communications@nopsema.gov.au.
Supporting the offshore workforce through COVID-19
Shining a light on offshore mental health

IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO, CALL:
- Lifeline on 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800
- MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978
- Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36
- Headspace on 1800 650 890
- QLife on 1800 184 527
Resources

- Safety page
  - HSRs
  - Resources
- Resources
  - Published Notices
  - *The Regulator* magazine
Q&A
National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

Level 8 Alluvion, 58 Mounts Bay Rd, Perth WA 6000
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nopsema.gov.au