

ASSET INTEGRITY

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The importance of an effective Asset Integrity Management System is well understood in the international offshore petroleum high hazard industry. It must perform effectively and efficiently in protecting health, safety and the environment over the complete lifecycle of the asset.

The facilities are required to be maintained in order to perform in an industry that fluctuates due to shifting international market barrel pricing demands, which are generally not in the control of the asset owner or asset operator.

Globally, facilities are now commonly aged in excess of 30 years in the offshore exploration and extraction environments. Transfer of asset ownership and reduction of offshore field life are some of the many challenges being faced by duty holders and duty operators.

The questions for regulators to industry facing the global economic downturn and aging facilities are around making sure that reduced budgets do not influence safe operation, when facing high cost factors to operate and maintain those expensive-to-run facilities.

An IRF working group, led by WorkSafe New Zealand, developed an Asset Integrity template that could be used by regulators globally. The North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (NSOAF) has successfully worked in this area also. The IRF agreed NSOAF will trial their template in the Europe in 2017 and 2018 and report back on findings.

The premise of the template is to identify trends as to how duty holders are managing their facilities in the, now prolonged, low oil price environment; in particular decisions being made to manage costs that potentially relate directly or indirectly to the effective control of Major Accident Hazards and of course compliance with their respective regulations.

Each member country can, and has successfully tailored the template to fit a country's particular situation. Importantly, this can identify and deliver particular objectives to the actualities of each country's circumstances, and consider the effectiveness of similar templates in use.

Key questions for the regulator include but are not limited to:

- How is the integrity of the asset remaining a focus in these changing times?
- How is the integrity managed during the end of field life, and before and after transfer of ownership?
- How is the reduction in staff contributing to the asset integrity being adequately managed?
- How is the preventative maintenance being managed to maintain the life of the asset?
- What is the prediction for the asset on use, sale, extension of life, and transfer?

The template covers the broad categories of: Maintenance Philosophy, Historical Maintenance Planning & Activities, Asset Integrity (depends on Jurisdictional Legislation), Organisation Change Management, Training & Competency Management, Emergency Preparedness, Governance and Leadership.

The IRF will trial the Asset Integrity template through 2018 to gather information in this area and as regulators identify common areas of concern the industry are facing and the regulators can focus on.

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