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Guidelines for Mutual Recognition of Specialised Safety and Emergency Response Training for North Sea Operations

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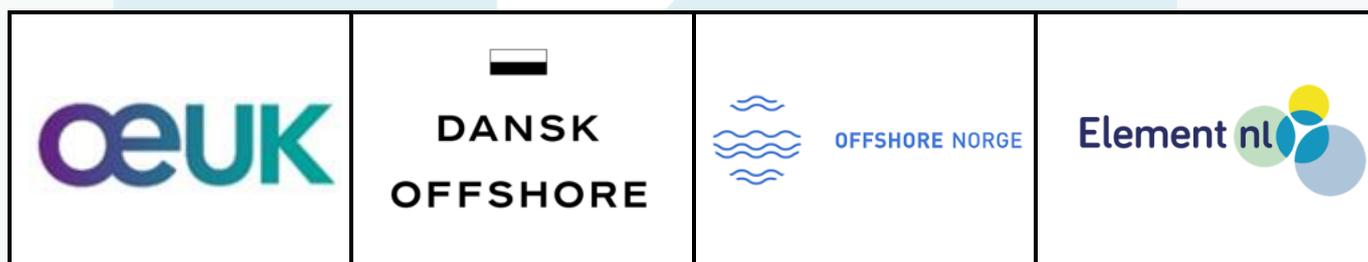


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Glossary

- **Approved Training**
Training establishment approved by the National Associations
- **Establishment**
To provide training to these guidelines
- **Competence**
The ability in terms of skills, knowledge and awareness to perform activities within an occupation or function to specified standards. Competence implies that a person possesses the essential skills, knowledge, awareness and attitudes and can apply them in a particular environment.
- **Drills**
Verification and maintenance of knowledge and skills through simulation of a continuous emergency preparedness effort offshore.
- **ER**
Emergency Response role
- **HLO**
Helicopter Landing Officer
- **MOB boat**
Man Over Board boat
- **National Associations**
National offshore oil & gas operators associations
- **NOGEPA**
Netherlands Oil & Gas Exploration and Production Association (part of ELEMENT NL)
- **NOIA TWG**
National Oil Industry Associations Training Work Group
- **NSOAF**
North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum
- **IOGP**
International Association of Oil & Gas Producers
- **Offshore Personnel**
Persons employed in work on an offshore oil or gas installation
- **Dansk Offshore**
Danish offshore industry association
- **Offshore Norge**
Norwegian offshore energies industry association
- **OEUK**
UK offshore energies industry association
- **Practice**
Ongoing verification and maintenance of knowledge, skills and familiarization with the use and operation of emergency preparedness equipment and arrangements onshore and offshore.
- **Training**
Acquiring and maintaining knowledge and skills.

1. Introduction

The requirement for competency in Specialised Safety and Emergency Response skills for offshore personnel is recognised in all areas of the oil and gas Industry. In the North Sea, anyone appointed to work offshore is required to undertake a specific basic safety training programme. In addition, for emergency response functions, some personnel are required to undertake a specific specialised training programme and, on successful completion, certificates are issued. All certificates remain valid for a set period of time, after which, refresher training is required.

This guideline states the agreement on Mutual Recognition of Specialised Safety and Emergency Response Training and is accepted by the NOIAs TWG. A previous gap analysis of basic safety training has been carried out and a mutual agreement matrix has been published for that level of training.

That basic safety training matrix is not included in this document. More information about the basic safety training matrix can be found on the respective National Associations website.

1.1 History

In 1999 the E&P Forum (now IOGP), issued a report (No. 6.59/289) containing a matrix agreed by the National Associations, showing the recognition of national basic safety training courses and additional national training requirements.

In 2002 a new group was established in order to update the IOGP matrix of 1999. This group evaluated the training given in the four countries as well as the refresher training in order to agree mutual recognition arrangements. Other offshore site-based practice or drills were not evaluated.

Since 2011 the NOIA TWG has updated this document and the matrix every year.

It is not the intent of this guideline to supersede existing regulations and nothing specified herein should be construed as authority to operate other than in strict compliance with international, flag state, coastal state or local laws and regulations.

2. Application

The guidelines are primarily intended for use in the North Sea offshore oil and gas industry covered by the signatory national trade associations. The guideline addresses the training provided to all offshore workers regularly assigned to specialised emergency response roles within offshore installation emergency response functions.

It is important to stress that in view of the location-specific competence required of many ER roles, Operators must exercise good judgment and assure the competence and readiness of the individual before he or she is assigned to an offshore ER function. As an example, a fire and rescue team member trained in Norway but then transferred to the UK would require Company and installation-specific orientation prior to deployment as a fire team member on a UK installation. The basic fire and rescue team member team training undertaken in Norway would however allow the individual to attend fire and rescue team refresher training in the UK without the need to attend a UK basic fire and rescue team member training course.

3. Mutual Recognition of Specialized Safety and Emergency Response Training

It is agreed that OEUK, Offshore Norge, NOGEPa and Dansk Offshore, will recognise specialised safety and emergency response training given in each of the countries and in accordance with this agreement and future updates.

3.1 The Matrix

The matrix shows the mutual recognition of the specialised safety and emergency response training undertaken at approved training centres and agreed by the North Sea National Associations who are party to the NOIA TWG.

The mutual recognition matrix is a living document and therefore regular updates are being carried out in order to keep the information current. This is combined with the scheduled NOIA TWG meetings for exchange of audit information.

3.2. Validity of Certificates

For those certificates which have been approved for use in the North Sea but where there is conflict regarding the duration of validity between the country of issue and where the operation takes place, the requirements for renewal for the operating country shall apply.

E.g. Someone holding a Danish MOB boat certificate (valid for 4 years in Denmark) and will work on the Norwegian Continental Shelf as a MOB boat member must renew their certificate after 2 years (in line with NOROG requirements) even though they may have 2 years remaining on their Danish validation certificate.

4. Matrix of Mutual Recognition of Specialised Safety and Emergency response training

Matrix 1 - Mutual recognition of Lifeboat Coxswain Course in the North Sea						
Country	Course	Validity period	Denmark	Netherlands	Norway	UK
DK	Lifeboat Captain	4 years		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted
	Lifeboat Captain Refresher			Accepted	Accepted	Accepted
NL	Basic Coxswain Lifeboat	2 years	Accepted		Accepted	Accepted
	Refresher Coxswain Lifeboat		Accepted		Accepted	Accepted
NO	Lifeboat Coxswain		Accepted	Accepted		Accepted
	Lifeboat Coxswain refresher		Accepted	Accepted		Accepted
UK	Offshore Lifeboat Coxswain		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	
	Offshore Lifeboat Coxswain Further Practice		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	

Matrix 2 - Mutual recognition of MOB Boat Course in the North Sea						
Country	Course	Validity period	Denmark	Netherlands	Norway	UK
DK	MOB Boat course	4 years		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted
	MOB Boat Refresher			Accepted	Accepted	Accepted
NL	Basic Man Overboard Coxswain	2 years	Accepted		Accepted	Accepted
	Refresher Man Overboard Coxswain		Accepted		Accepted	Accepted
NO	MOB Boat		Accepted	Accepted		Accepted
	MOB Boat refresher		Accepted	Accepted		Accepted
UK	Fast Rescue Craft Coxswain	3 years	Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	
	Fast Rescue Craft Coxswain refresher (revalidated by the Ongoing Onboard Training Programme)		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	

Matrix 3 – Mutual Recognition of Fire & Rescue Team Member Course in the North Sea						
Country	Course	Validity period	Denmark	Netherlands	Norway	UK
DK	Offshore Fire Team Member	4 years		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted
	Offshore Fire Team Member Refresher			Accepted	Accepted	Accepted
NL	Basic Member Fire Fighting and Rescue Team Offshore	2 years	Accepted		Accepted	Accepted
	Refresher Member Fire Fighting and Rescue Team Offshore		Accepted		Accepted	Accepted
NO	Search and Rescue team basic	2 years	Accepted	Accepted		Accepted
	Search and Rescue refresher		Accepted	Accepted		Accepted
UK	Offshore Emergency Response Team Member	2 years	Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	
	Further Offshore Emergency Response Team Member		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	

Matrix 4 - Mutual recognition of Fire & Rescue Team Leader Course in the North Sea						
Country	Course	Validity period	Denmark	Netherlands	Norway	UK
DK	Offshore Fire Team Leader	4 years		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted
	Offshore Fire Team Leader			Accepted	Accepted	Accepted
NL	Offshore Fire/Emergency Response Team Leader	2 years	Accepted		Accepted	Accepted
	Refresher Offshore Fire Emergency Response Team Leader		Accepted		Accepted	Accepted
NO	Offshore Fire Team Leader refresher*	2 years	Accepted	Accepted		Accepted
UK	Offshore Emergency Response Team leader	2 years	Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	
	Further Offshore Emergency Response Team Leader		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	

Matrix 5 - Mutual recognition of Helideck Team Member* Courses in the North Sea						
Country	Course	Validity period	Denmark	Netherlands	Norway	UK
DK	Danish Helicopter Landing Officer	Unlimited		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted ^{1,3}
	Danish Helicopter Landing Officer			Accepted	Accepted	Accepted ^{1,3}
NL	Helicopter Landing Officer (HLO) Basic	2 years	Accepted		Accepted	Accepted ¹
	Helicopter Landing Officer (HLO) Refresher		Accepted		Accepted	Accepted ¹
NO	HLO basic		Accepted	Accepted		Accepted ¹
	HLO refresher		Accepted	Accepted		Accepted ¹
UK	Offshore Helideck ER Team Member		Accepted ²	Accepted ²	Accepted ²	
	Further Offshore Helideck ER Team Member		Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	

* Please note that on Team Member level there is mutual recognition, but on Team Leader/Helicopter Landing Officer (HLO) level there is not.

NOTE 1: HLO training course in DK, NO or NL does not cover all aspects of the UK Helideck ER Team Leader Course (especially the aspects of being a fire-fighting and rescue team lead). It only covers the aspects of the UK ER Team Member Course.

NOTE 2: The UK Helideck ER Team Member Course does not cover all the aspects of an HLO training course in DK, NO or NL (especially the non-emergency related aspects of being an HLO).

NOTE 3: accepted if carried out within the NL, NO or UK validity period.

Matrix 6 - Mutual recognition of First Aid Course in the North Sea							
Country	Course	Validity period	Denmark	Netherlands	Norway	UK	
DK	First Aid	3-4 years		Not accepted	Not accepted	Not accepted	
	First Aid Refresher			Not accepted	Not accepted	Not accepted	
NL	Basic Offshore First Aid	2 years	Accepted		Accepted	Accepted	
	Refresher Offshore First Aid		Accepted		Accepted	Accepted	
NO	First Aid Basic		Accepted	Accepted		Accepted	
	First Aid Refresher		Accepted	Accepted		Accepted	
UK	Offshore First Aid		3 years	Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	
	Offshore First Aid			Accepted	Accepted	Accepted	