

Draft

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What are the major HSE issues and concerns facing North West European countries? *And what are we doing about it!*

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Summary

On the basis of a number of recent major incidents and fatal accidents which have occurred in the North West European offshore industry, and on the basis of overall safety performance statistics, a number of main risk contributors are identified. These, combined with the information compiled from inspections, audits, complaints, meetings with industry associations, trade unions and NSOAF¹ countries, concerns have been generated of which the ageing of the offshore industry workforce is one. Appropriate company employment policies on ageing workforce are still not widely introduced in the offshore industry. The other challenges are: the level of workers' involvement in offshore health and safety matters, worksite supervision, vessel collisions with platforms, maintenance management and in particular that of ageing assets, and last but not least operations in sensitive offshore areas, which is not only a challenge for the industry but also for the regulatory authorities supervising the compliance of legislative and licence requirements.

A number of suggestions and safety and occupational health improvement initiatives have been initiated i.e. **'Step change in safety'** (UK) and **'Working together for safety'** (Norway) to handle and improve the relevant HS&E related concerns/issues.

In the second part of this presentation I will explain what is being done about it, what is done to amend policies and to exchange valuable information internationally and finally the new Dutch approach towards supervision, its vision (independent, transparent, professional and internationally orientated) and the so called: *'Ten commandments for modern supervision'* of the Dutch Government will be explained.

¹ NSOAF North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum, members countries: Denmark, Eire, Faeroe Islands, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, The United Kingdom