



International Regulators' Forum
GLOBAL OFFSHORE SAFETY

Communiqué

Offshore Petroleum Industry's Response to COVID-19 at the Forefront of International Regulators' Forum Annual General Meeting

October 8, 2020

The International Regulators' Forum (IRF) held their first virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 6-7, 2020. The IRF is comprised of regulators of health and safety in the offshore upstream oil and gas industry from Australia, Brazil, Canada (Chair), Denmark, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Members share a commitment to working together to promote health and safety improvements to protect offshore workers and the environment.

This year's IRF AGM provided an opportunity for members to continue to share information about the ongoing challenges created by COVID-19, and to discuss with industry associations the measures that are necessary to reduce the risks associated with the pandemic, immediately and in the future. The longer term risks of deferred maintenance and the loss of personnel capacity and capability are shared concerns that must remain in focus for all of industry.

The IRF discussed with representatives of the International Oil and Gas Producers and the International Association of Drilling Contractors the expectation that effective measures continue to be taken, consistent with public health advice, to reduce the risks of transmission of COVID-19.

IRF members and the industry associations also discussed industry performance over the past year, along with the strategic topics including well control, digitalization and incident investigation and learning. IRF members reviewed priorities such as occupational health and safety, process safety, barrier management, corrective and preventative maintenance, training and competency that must remain top of mind for all industry participants. Regulators and the public they serve also expect that any cost cutting driven by lower oil prices will not compromise offshore safety or environmental protection in any way.

IRF members reviewed key performance indicators from 2019 and shared reports on their respective major priorities and transformational initiatives. They also received an update on the work of their colleagues in the International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators forum, and discussed the roles of offshore petroleum regulators in the transition to offshore renewable energy.

The next IRF Conference, which was originally to be held this year, is now being planned for October 2021 in Australia. In the meantime, IRF members will continue to share information on regulatory and industry best practices, along with lessons learned from any major offshore incidents.

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