

Building and Implementing Global Offshore Safety Training Standards

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Introduction

July 1988 Occidental Petroleum's Piper Alpha explosion caused the loss of 167 lives. From that investigation and actions created many new operating requirements. One of which was OPITO. OPITO is the skills body, which ensures safety and competency in the worldwide oil and gas industry. OPITO is a unique, not-for-profit organization, wholly owned by the industry and committed to developing and sustaining a safe, skilled and competent workforce now and in the future. OPITO also work towards improving industry safety standards by identifying and meeting the core demands of the global oil and gas industry. This is achieved by working in collaboration with a well-established network of industry employers, learning and training providers, education and academia, and partnership organizations. Our regional industry forums are representative of a cross section of major employers active in the respective region. They support, advise and direct the work of OPITO on relevant issues that have a direct relationship to workforce, safety, training, skills and competence and help OPITO understand issues and identify potential solutions.

OPITO is the custodian of industry standards in safety training and competence assurance. OPITO are responsible for developing and maintaining industry standards in:

- Emergency response
- Hazardous Activities
- Technical disciplines

Global Standards

OPITO standards are already synonymous with industry safety. International Minimum Industry Safety Training (IMIST) is the latest in a portfolio of training and competence standards, produced and agreed by the oil and gas industry, which cover a variety of offshore emergency response duties and occupational roles.

BOSIET (Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training) for example, is now well recognized around the world with well over 100,000 workers in 30 countries trained to that standard per annum.

Recent incidents in the South China Seas and the North Sea, involving helicopters ditching, revealed that the emergency response training was directly responsible for the way in which the workers responded to the incident. Ultimately the training ensured their survival.

Essentially, BOSIET is all about travelling to work safely and responding effectively to alarms - IMIST is all about working safely in the workplace when you get there.

These two standards combined and applied to every offshore worker around the world would give greater confidence to those workers in the industry and their employers and help avoid further incidents and tragedies.

Managing the Standards

The Emergency Response standards are managed through a very specific process of reviews at the Industry Forum level as well as the Training Provider level. Once an addition or change is requested and recognized as required, it follows a very specific process for approval and implementation.

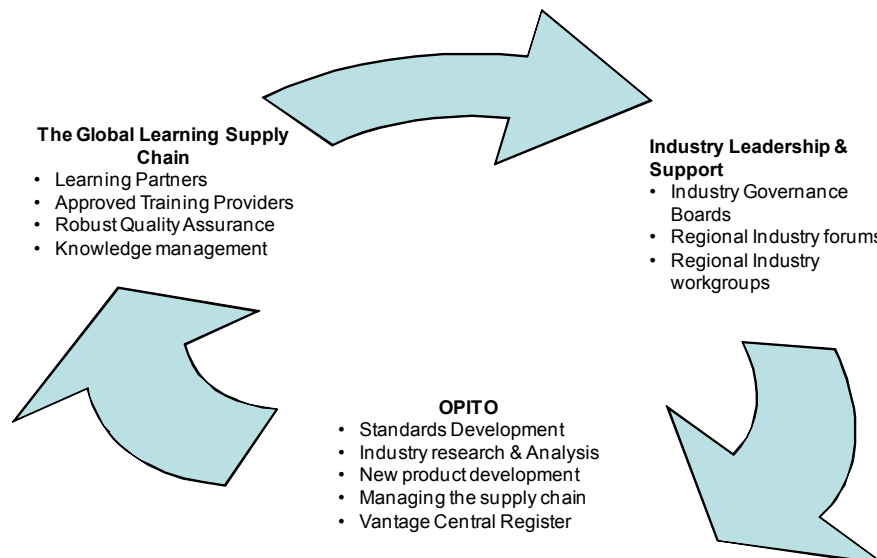
Role and purpose of Regional Industry Forums

The Industry Forums are representative of a cross section of employers active in the respective region. They advise OPITO on relevant issues that have a direct relationship to workforce, safety, training, skills and competence. They help OPITO understand such issues and identify potential solutions which fall within the remit of OPITO i.e. standards development, qualifications and workforce development frameworks.

They also engage and consult with the regional OPITO Training Providers Advisory Groups (TPAGs) as appropriate to the consultation phase to gain a further understanding of the key issues.

Role and purpose of the Training Providers Advisory Groups (TPAGS)

In addition to the primary function of the TPAGS - to share knowledge, expertise, experiences and safety issues across the OPITO network, the groups also provide OPITO and the Industry Forums with technical expertise related to the delivery of training in regard to the development of new standards and proposed amendments to existing ones.



Approval Process

To obtain OPITO approval, organizations are subject to an audit process. The purpose of this process is to verify that the organization can consistently deliver training and/or assessment to the relevant OPITO Standard. The audit process is conducted in two stages:

Desktop Review

The first stage, carried out by OPITO, is a desktop review of the applicant's management system documentation and training materials.

The objectives of the desktop review are to:

1. Verify that the applicant has the resources in place to deliver training and/or assessment to the OPITO Standard.
2. Verify that the applicant has management systems in place that comply with the OPITO Approval Criteria. These criteria are designed to assure quality delivery of OPITO Standards

Site Audit

The second stage of the process is an audit, carried out at the applicant's premises and will include the observation of training and/or assessment being delivered, which will be assessed against the relevant OPITO Standard. The second stage audit will be carried out by an Auditor or team of OPITO Auditors depending on the type and scope of the audit. The findings of the site audit will be recorded in a report, a copy of which will be given to the applicant on completion of the site audit. The report will also contain a recommendation from the Auditor who conducted the audit, to the Global Technical Director for verification then on to the Chief Executive who takes the decision as to whether the applicant is to be awarded OPITO approval or not.

Ongoing Monitoring

OPITO monitors compliance through review of the approved centre's internal audit reports and by conducting an annual onsite audit during throughout approval period. OPITO may also carry out unannounced visits.

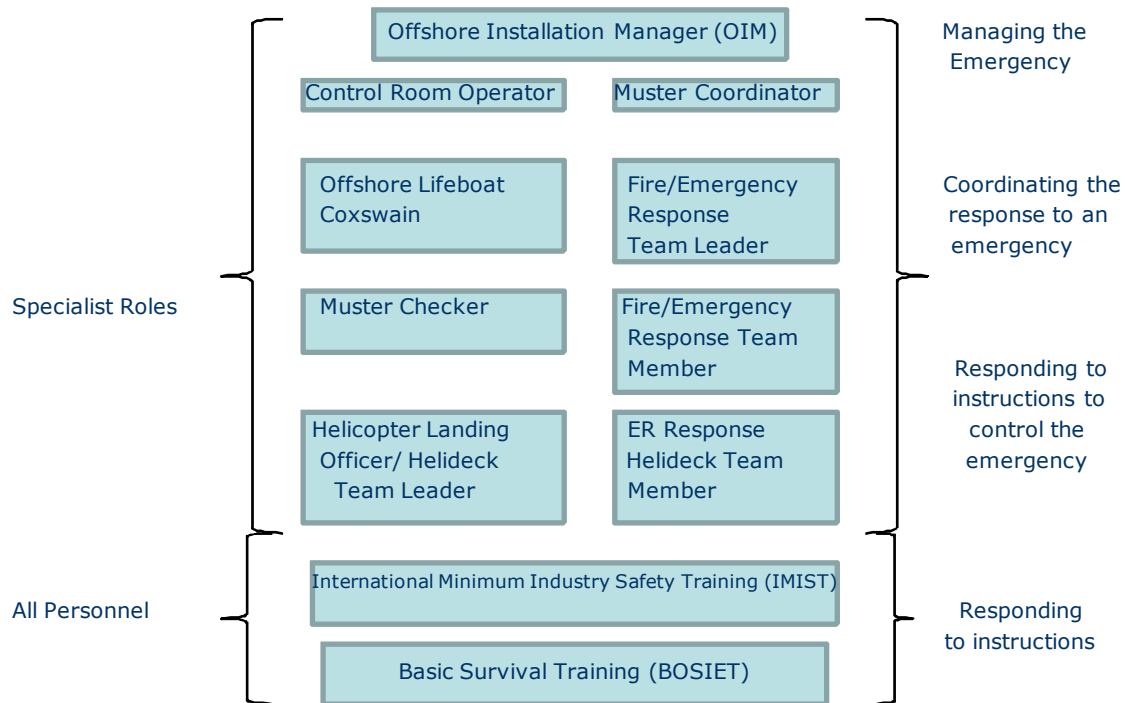
Governance Process

It is the role of the governance boards to ensure that each proposal relating to the development of new standards or the amendment of existing standards. The governance board will be responsible for submitting the proposal (if accepted) to the Global Standards Approval Authority (GSAA) where it will undergo further evaluation and final approval.

The GSAA has the option to convene a committee or workgroup to support any additional and final review of new standards development or change to existing standards prior to formal recommendation for approval globally.

Emergency Response Framework for an Offshore Installation

An effective framework for Managing Emergency Response activities requires clarity around the roles and responsibilities of all personnel on board the installation. Roles should be defined and a framework should be developed which sets out how they interrelate to others e.g.



The standards listed above are reviewed every three years and if changes are required they go into the process listed above.

Success Measured

OPITO has taken the lessons learned, processes and programs developed and internationalized them at the request and direction of the National Oil Companies (NOCs) and International Operating Companies (IOCs). Many of the National Oil Companies leverage what has been successful in more developed or mature operating areas and adopt them for their countries use. With a track record and growing influence internationally, OPITO has grown the organisation to meet industry demands for a truly global safe and competent workforce, establishing effective common industry standards that are flexible and take account of local operational environments. Taking the approach adopted in the North Sea and tailoring it for each oil and gas province ensures that the industry's mobile workforce is trained to same high standards, improving competency and safety and ultimately saving lives.

In 2012 over 220,000 oil and gas workers in 40 countries were trained to OPITO standards. This compares to around 50,000 in 2005. Where workers once received inconsistent training in hotel swimming pools or other unsuitable venues, they can now be trained by highly qualified instructors in state-of-the-art, purpose-built facilities. There are 127 OPITO approved training centres worldwide.



The picture above is an example where not having standards drive the type of training received in many places around the world. In this example the training was set up in a hotel swimming pool and using a flip basket for simulating an emergency escape from a helicopter.



The picture above is an example of a standardized training simulator that will allow many different types of emergency scenarios that are specified in the OPITO training standard.