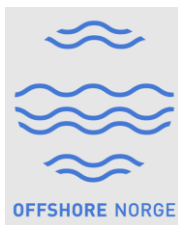


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## **Guidelines for Mutual Recognition of Specialised Safety and Emergency Response Training for North Sea Operations**

Revision 10, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025, by NOIA TWG



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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 familiarisation 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**

| <b>Matrix 1 - Mutual recognition of Lifeboat Coxswain Course in the North Sea</b> |                                             |                        |                |                    |               |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| <b>Country</b>                                                                    | <b>Course</b>                               | <b>Validity period</b> | <b>Denmark</b> | <b>Netherlands</b> | <b>Norway</b> | <b>UK</b> |
| 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      |           |

| <b>Matrix 2 - Mutual recognition of MOB Boat Course in the North Sea</b> |                                                                                              |                        |                |                    |               |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| <b>Country</b>                                                           | <b>Course</b>                                                                                | <b>Validity period</b> | <b>Denmark</b> | <b>Netherlands</b> | <b>Norway</b> | <b>UK</b> |
| 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 |          |

\* Included in the Search and Rescue refresher course

| <b>Matrix 5 - Mutual recognition of Helideck Team Member* Courses in the North Sea</b> |                                            |                        |                       |                       |                       |                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Country</b>                                                                         | <b>Course</b>                              | <b>Validity period</b> | <b>Denmark</b>        | <b>Netherlands</b>    | <b>Norway</b>         | <b>UK</b>                |
| DK                                                                                     | Danish Helicopter Landing Officer          | Unlimited              |                       | Accepted              | Accepted              | Accepted <sup>1, 3</sup> |
|                                                                                        | Danish Helicopter Landing Officer          |                        |                       | Accepted              | Accepted              | Accepted <sup>1, 3</sup> |
| NL                                                                                     | Helicopter Landing Officer (HLO) Basic     | 2 years                | Accepted              |                       | Accepted              | Accepted <sup>1</sup>    |
|                                                                                        | Helicopter Landing Officer (HLO) Refresher |                        | Accepted              |                       | Accepted              | Accepted <sup>1</sup>    |
| NO                                                                                     | HLO basic                                  |                        | Accepted              | Accepted              |                       | Accepted <sup>1</sup>    |
|                                                                                        | HLO refresher                              |                        | Accepted              | Accepted              |                       | Accepted <sup>1</sup>    |
| UK                                                                                     | Offshore Helideck ER Team Member           |                        | Accepted <sup>2</sup> | Accepted <sup>2</sup> | Accepted <sup>2</sup> |                          |
|                                                                                        | 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     |                 | Accepted |              | Accepted     | Accepted     |
|                                                                    | Refresher Offshore First Aid |                 | Accepted |              | Accepted     | Accepted     |
| NO                                                                 | First Aid Basic              | 2 years         | Accepted | Accepted     |              | Accepted     |
|                                                                    | First Aid Refresher          |                 | Accepted | Accepted     |              | Accepted     |
| UK                                                                 | Offshore First Aid           | 3 years         | Accepted | Accepted     | Accepted     |              |
|                                                                    | Offshore First Aid           |                 | Accepted | Accepted     | Accepted     |              |