



Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

2017 BSEE International Standards Workshop

Standards: Past, Present, and Future

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May 5, 2017

Presentation Overview

- Standards as a regulatory tool
 - Historical perspective
 - Current use of standards
- Review of past BSEE Standards Workshops
- 2017 Workshop Evaluation Process
- Goals for the 2017 Workshop

BSEE Regulatory Model

- Hybrid regulatory system
- Program draws from a variety of concepts
- Model contains 3 key elements
 - Prescriptive requirements
 - Performance-based initiatives
 - **Industry Standards**



Why Use Standards?

- Provides consistency
 - Benefits the regulator, industry, and consumer
- Establishes a baseline for **minimum safety requirements**
 - Engages experts in a voluntary consensus process
- Provides efficiencies for the regulators
 - Standards are updated on a continuous cycle
- The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act requires federal agencies to use voluntary consensus standards in regulations, when possible

Use of Standards by International Regulators

- A study of 12 countries found that 1100 standards are referenced by regulators (Int'l Assoc. of Oil & Gas Producers)
- Of the countries in the International Regulators Forum (IRF), the UK has the most standards referenced in its regulations (289), followed by the U.S. (202), and then Norway (183)
- More than 40% of all standards referenced by regulators are American Petroleum Institute (API) standards or other U.S.-based standards development organizations.
- About 20% of the standards referenced by regulators are International Standards Organization (ISO) documents
- Many of the existing ISO standards and Norwegian standards are based on API standards
- Recent discussions in the IRF, relate to the use of international standards or “equivalent standards”

BSEE Standards Workshops - Con't

3rd Domestic and International Standards Workshop: 2015

- BSEE selected 4 topics for detailed discussion based on incident reports, third party recommendations, and internal consideration of safety critical issues.
- The Workshop provided an opportunity for BSEE to reemphasize the importance of establishing:
 - Safety as a top priority of the offshore Oil & Gas industry and regulators;
 - A framework to allow for collaboration between BSEE and industry in developing new standards, updating existing standards, and determining the best use of standards particularly focused on safety and environmental compliance; and
 - An active dialogue on technical and regulatory policy issues with international oil and gas regulators, as well as SDOs.

2017 Workshop Evaluation Process

Evaluation expectations:

- Open an active dialogue among attendees
- Identify select standards issues concerning safety
- Determine the state of the art for the identified issues or concerns
- Identify gaps that need standards development in order to fully address the safety issues
- Provide a group judgment or sentiment concerning the uncovered issues
- Recommend a path forward for addressing each identified issue.

Goals for the 2017 Workshop

- Identify and discuss international regulatory concerns, incidents, and safety issues
- Identify gaps that need standards development in order to fully address the safety concerns
- Recommend a path forward for addressing each identified gap
- Provide a platform for continuing communication among operators, contractors, regulators, and the standards community, generally.

Questions, comments, or concerns?



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“To promote safety, protect the environment and conserve resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement.”