International Regulators’ Forum
GLOBAL OFFSHORE SAFETY

Simon Brown, IRF Standards Sub-Group
BSEE Standards Workshop New Orleans 14–15 November 2012

www.irfoffshoresafety.com
International Regulators’ Forum

• Terms of reference
  – To promote best sustainable safety standards
  – To enable an exchange of information between regulators
  – To provide a network of health and safety regulators for mutual support and advice

• Ways of working
  – Annual plenary meeting
  – Communication between members
  – Programme working groups, e.g. Lifting, Performance Measures, Standards
  – Periodic conference
  – Website (www.irfoffshoresafety.com)
‘The involvement of IRF in setting standards and best practices’

• Paper at IRF Summit Conference, Stavanger, 4/5 October 2011
• Impact of Montara and Macondo incidents
  – drive to improve consistency of safe practice worldwide, particularly in drilling community
• Proposes ways in which IRF can do more in relation to offshore oil and gas industry standards
Background

- API widely used
  - predominantly equipment specs. (manufacturer)
- Other regional/national bodies have global influence
  - e.g. CEN, NORSOK
- ISO provides international dimension
  - many ISO standards based on API
  - Sometimes regional Annexes required (country specific)
- IEC for electrical and instrumentation
  - ‘Ex’, machinery and process control systems
  - Safety systems
- IMO
  - Marine integrity e.g. MODU Code
- Move to management process standards
  - Competence, risk analysis, safety management systems etc.
How do Regulators Use Standards?

• National legislation differs across the globe in style and content
  – Different cultures, legal systems
  – Strong prescription, to goal setting and hybrid

• Enforcement has a broad spectrum

• All Regulators uses Standards in some way to support legal requirements
  – Sometimes an informal relationship
  – Sometimes formal status e.g. in support of EC product safety Directives or incorporated by reference into regulations

• Regulator decides if a standard meets regulatory intent within their own jurisdiction
  – unless defined by a formal process e.g. harmonised standards under EC product Directives (e.g. ATEX, Machinery, Pressure Equipment)
OGP Survey

- Regulators refer to 1,140 different standards
- 989 (87%) referenced by one regulator only
- Industry standards – 44%
- National standards – 35%
- International standards – 21%
- API dominated (225 references)
- ISO – 152 standards (59 from ISO/TC67)
- 40% US, 24% EU, 21% International
- Most references to undated revisions

Ref: OGP Regulators use of standards, OGP Report No. 426, March 2010
How can/do/should regulators contribute?

• Encourage the understanding & application of standards
• Participate in the development of selected standards
• Encourage continuous improvement
  – helping ‘best practice’ to become ‘good practice’
  – learning from incidents
• Feedback problems in the application of standards from a regulatory viewpoint
• Identify gaps where standards needed
• Principal resources (subject matter experts, funding) should be from industry
IRF Standards Sub-Group
Terms of Reference

• To set clear priorities for ISO/IEC standards work to cater for IRF members’ needs
• To engage with the OGP Standards Committee to present IRF views and seek jointly agreeable solutions
• To engage with ISO/TC67 Management Committee and other relevant IEC and ISO committees to present IRF needs and views on international standards
• To monitor, and participate when needed, in the development of relevant ISO/IEC standards to ensure regulatory concerns are identified at an early stage
• To inform IRF members of progress and advise on current issues and relevant developments.
IRF Standards Sub-Group
Current Composition

• Chair – Simon Brown (HSE/OSD, UK)
• Jean-Pierre Posselt (DEA, Denmark)
• Jos Marx (SSM, NL)
• Joe Levine (BSEE, USA)
• Russell Hoshmann (BSEE, USA)
• Gerry Sheehan (CNSOP, Canada/Nova Scotia)
• (IRF Standards Champions - Steve Walker (UK), Jan de Jong (NL))
Thank You!

Any Questions?

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