



Safety Notice

Evacuation Capacity

PURPOSE

This Safety Notice highlights an issue arising from the capacity of evacuation systems designed upon the IMO SOLAS standards, which use an average per passenger weight of 75 Kg.

BACKGROUND

In December 2008, the UK Health and Safety Executive issued an Information Circular “Big Persons in Lifeboats”. This circular highlighted a potential safety issue with lifeboats as the average male working offshore in the UK now weighs approximately 98 kg and the average female about 77 Kg, including the weight of immersion suits. This assessment was based upon work done by the UK Civil Aviation Authority. A recent review done by an operator in the NL Offshore Area indicates that this statistic is valid in the Canadian offshore industry. Accordingly, operators and installation owners should consider this increase in average weight and size when determining the capacity of evacuation systems.

AUTHORITY

Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Installations regulations section 22 (1) *Every installation shall be provided with (a) subject to subsection (2), in the case of a manned installation, two or more totally enclosed survival craft that have a combined carrying capacity of at least 200 per cent of the total number of persons on board the installation at any one time,...*
(b) *one or more inflatable life rafts, that have a combined capacity for accommodating at least 100 per cent of the total number of persons on board the installation at any one time,...*

ACTION REQUIRED

All operators and installation owners shall base the evacuation capacity of their totally enclosed survival craft and inflatable life rafts upon an average individual weight of 100 Kg, which includes the weight of the average immersion suit.

This notice shall be posted onboard installations, which are operating under an authorization issued by the C-NLOPB.

Questions regarding this Safety notice may be directed to a C-NLOPB Safety Officer at the address shown below.

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