



G+ BOARD MEMO

Subject: Quick Wins - Sea survival training

To	G+ Board		
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Introduction

In response to requests from some G+ members, key external stakeholders and as part of the research to identify “quick wins” to improve H&S performance in the offshore wind industry, an assessment of the Global Wind Organisation (GWO), Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organisation (OPITO) and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) training courses covering sea survival has been undertaken to ascertain what level (if any) equivalence can be applied.

GWO BST Sea Survival

The GWO Basic Safety Training (BST) standard is the recognised training standard used within the on and offshore wind industry and has been developed by a committee comprising wind farm operators and WTG OEMs. In the sea survival module, assessment of a delegate is by means of direct observation (theory and practical) and supplementary oral questions (where appropriate). A delegate can undertake the course after signing a medical self-assessment. The sea survival module can be completed in isolation. A GWO BST certificate is valid for up to 2 years.

OPITO BOSIET Sea Survival and First Aid

The BOSIET introduces delegates to the specific safety issues and regimes relevant to offshore O&G installations, including the basic emergency response knowledge and skills for travelling to and from offshore installations by helicopter. Assessment of a delegate is by using direct observation and oral and/or written questions as appropriate. There is also a compulsory written test at the end of Module 1¹ “Safety Induction” (duration: 30 minutes). This is an open-book style test with a pass mark of 80%. A valid, current offshore medical certificate is required before a delegate can undertake the course. An OPITO BOSIET certificate is valid for up to 4 years.

STCW Personal survival techniques

STCW defines qualification standards for Masters, officers and watch personnel on seagoing merchant ships. In Jan 2012 the training standards were updated in line with new technological and operational requirements. For the competencies on “personal survival techniques” (often referred to as the STCW Basic Sea Survival) a delegate can undertake the course after signing a medical self-assessment. Assessment of a delegate is via continual

¹ The OPITO BOSIET comprises 4 modules and all modules have to be taken to obtain the certificate. It is not possible to take the Sea Survival and First Aid module in isolation. The total course duration is 20 hours 25 mins.

assessment during the course. The personal survival techniques module can be completed in isolation, although it is part of the STCW basic safety training requirements (alongside 3 other modules) which must be completed in order to undertake any shipboard duties.

Outside of the STCW basic safety training requirements there is another competency outlined in covering the “minimum standard of competence in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats” which also covers elements of sea survival found in the GWO sea survival module and the OPITO BOSIET training courses. STCW training certificates are valid for up to 5 years.

Observations

Although each of the courses outlined by GWO, OPITO and STCW are nominally called “sea survival” courses, each is different and contains bespoke elements not found in other training courses (relating to the origins of how they were developed and the industry sectors they were intended to be used in). However, noting this, there are some areas of overlap / duplication in training content amongst each of the training course syllabuses, mainly covering:

- Familiarisation and correct use of PPE and Life Saving Appliances
- Entry into water and in-water survival techniques
- Symptoms of Exposure, Cold Shock, Hypothermia and Drowning, and the management of these symptoms
- Entry into life rafts, use and understanding of on-board life raft equipment
- Overview of types of typical offshore emergency scenarios and commonly undertaken drills

Knowledge which is covered in the GWO sea survival module only includes:

- Safe transfer from vessel to WTG (theory and practical)
- Contingency plans on WTGs and bespoke WTG vessels (theory)

In addition, training specifically for responding to a MOB scenario is provided in the GWO and STCW training on sea survival, but is not covered in the OPITO BOSIET.

Proposal for consideration

a) Define categories of offshore worker and associated min. training profile

There is currently some confusion in the industry and supply chain over the scope of GWO training and who should be required to undertake it. To address this, the G+ and GEO should develop a statement for the G+ website which identifies the training profiles for mariners and offshore wind technicians and what tasks are typically required from each during an offshore wind farm project. This will also state where G+ member expect personnel to have the GWO BST qualification.

b) Define scenarios where worker training profiles may cause issue and seek an acceptable industry solution

An industry meeting (potentially co-ordinated and chaired by G+) should be convened with the objective of determining whether GWO and G+ members would recognise a sea survival “top up” for personnel possessing either OPITO or STCW certificates for certain scenarios which may be encountered on an offshore wind farm project e.g. (but not limited to)

- crew change (chef) on installation vessel, requiring a transfer from CTV to installation vessel boat landing

- crew change (Master and Deckhand) on CTV in field, requiring a transfer from one CTV to either an installation vessel or TP before transferring back to another CTV

c) Consider the development of an offshore wind transfer practical “top up” training module

The GWO practical demonstration of a safe transfer (190 mins), and theory on installations, vessels and WTGs (25 mins) could potentially be offered as a “top up” for personnel who already possess STCW training on personal survival techniques and survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats.

The GWO practical demonstration of a safe transfer (190 mins), and theory on installations, vessels and WTGs (25 mins) and MOB (15mins) could potentially be offered as a “top up” for personnel who already possess the OPITO BOSIET.

G+ members to agree whether this solution addresses the issues presented in the scenarios identified in (b)

Annex A: Comparison of sea survival training courses from GWO / OPITO and STCW

Summary table: GWO / OPITO BOSIET / STCW Sea Survival training modules			
<i>GWO BST Sea Survival</i>	<i>OPITO BOSIET Sea Survival and First Aid</i>	<i>STCW specification of minimum standard of competence in personal survival techniques</i>	<i>STCW Specification of the minimum standard of competence in survival craft and rescue boats other than fast rescue boats</i>
Introduction	Typical types of offshore installation emergencies	Types of emergency situations which may occur	Construction and outfit of survival craft and rescue boats and individual items of their equipment
Legislation	Station bills	Types of life saving appliances normally carried on vessels	Particular characteristics and facilities of survival craft and rescue boats
Exposure, Cold Shock, Hypothermia and Drowning	Means of escape	Equipment in survival craft	Various types of device used for launching survival craft and rescue boats
Lifesaving appliances and PPE	Actions to be taken prior to, during and after selective evacuation or escape	Location of personal life-saving appliances	Methods of launching survival craft into a rough sea
Safe Transfer	Installation emergency knowledge required of all personnel on-board	Principles of survival at sea:	Methods of recovering survival craft
Installations, vessels and WTGs	SAR: means of rescue from the sea and survival craft and actions to take during rescue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value of training and drills 	Action to be taken after leaving the ship
Man Over Board	Rescue by helicopter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal protective clothing and equipment (PPE) 	Methods of launching and recovering rescue boats in a rough sea
SAR and GMDSS	Appropriate personal clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to be ready for any emergency 	Dangers associated with use of on-load release devices
Practical Sea Survival	Methods of rescue i.e. standby vessel, FRC, MRRD, net, basket and ladder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions to be taken when called to survival craft stations 	Knowledge of maintenance procedures
Transfer practical	Types of survival craft (TEMPSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions to be taken when required to abandon ship 	Methods of starting and operating a survival craft engine and its accessories together with the use of fires
	Function and capabilities of TEMPSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions to be taken when in the water 	Handling survival craft in rough weather

	Procedure for mustering, boarding and strapping in, safety precautions during lowering and release, emergency equipment and supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to be taken when aboard a survival craft 	Use of painter, sea-anchor and all other equipment
	Tertiary escape: Knotted rope, Scramble net, Davit-launched liferaft, Ladders, Person descending escape devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main dangers to survivors 	Apportionment of food and water in survival craft
	In-water survival techniques: individual and group survival techniques		Action taken to maximize detectability and location of survival craft
			Method of helicopter rescue
			Effects of hypothermia and its prevention; use of protective covers and garments (immersion suits and thermal protective aids)
			Use of rescue boats and motor lifeboats for marshalling liferafts and rescue of survivors and persons in the sea
			Beaching survival craft
			Radio life-saving appliances carried in survival craft, including satellite EPIRBs and SARTs
			Pyrotechnic distress signals
			Use of the first-aid kit and resuscitation techniques
			Management of injured persons, including control of bleeding and shock
Total course time = 605 mins (10 hours 5 mins)	Total course time = 380 mins (6 hours 20 mins)	Total course time = 1 day (assume 8 hours = 480 mins)	Total course time = 5 days (assume 40 hours = 2,400 mins)