

REPORT OF
'WORKSHOP ON HUMAN FACTORS
IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY'

THE INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM

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IN THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY'

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Peter Elliot	BP
Peter Mullins	HSE
Dr Peter Seaton	Total
Clive Sheil	Shell
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FOREWORD

Human factors is attracting increasing interest as it offers the possibility of further improving the safety of petroleum industry operations.

This report is a record of IP's 'Workshop on Human Factors in the Petroleum Industry' held 28 November 2001. The workshop was convened to improve delegates' knowledge of human factors and to help them to apply human factors in their businesses.

It includes speakers' presentations and key points emerging from them, and the main issues arising from a working session. A way forward is proposed to enable better understanding and application of human factors in the petroleum industry.

The adoption of lessons learned, key points, and other information in this report should help employers and their employees satisfy legal obligations with respect to safety and the environment. However, The Institute of Petroleum cannot accept any responsibility, of whatsoever kind, for incidents, damage or loss, or alleged incidents, damage or loss, arising or otherwise occurring as a result of applying this report.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP

A 'Workshop on Human Factors in the Petroleum Industry' was convened at the Institute of Petroleum, London on 28 November 2001. Approximately thirty delegates attended from the upstream and downstream sectors of the petroleum industry, and from service organisations, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the nuclear and aviation industries.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- to share knowledge of human factors experts both within and outside the petroleum industry; and,
- to start to develop a strategy for practical application of human factors in petroleum industry businesses.

The programme is provided as Annex 1. In the morning session, speakers presented their perspective on human factors issues within the industry and from other industries. The objective was to set the scene and stimulate debate for the afternoon working session in

which delegates were assigned to syndicates of cross-sectoral representation. Topics arising from the morning session, and others tabled by the workshop facilitator, were discussed and reported-back in a plenary session.

1.2 STRUCTURE OF REPORT

This report is a record of the workshop: it includes the presentations that address the first objective of Section 1.1, and provides conclusions in support of the second objective. It is structured as follows:

- Section 2 comprises key points emerging from the presentations and the main issues arising from the working session. Presenters' slides (where used), abstracts, and biographies are provided in Annex 2.
- Section 3 discusses general findings from both the presentations and plenary working session.
- Section 4 proposes a way forward to enable petroleum industry businesses to better apply human factors to their operations.