

Good practice guideline

Working at height in the offshore wind industry

Second edition



G+ Global Offshore Wind
Health & Safety
Organisation

In partnership with



GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINE: WORKING AT HEIGHT IN THE
OFFSHORE WIND INDUSTRY

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1 INTRODUCTION

Safe working depends on a combination of:

- Plant:
 - The initial design and long-term condition of structures, workplaces and other assets determine the hazards to which workers will be exposed.
- Processes:
 - The way that work is planned and managed will affect the level of risk to the people involved.
- Place:
 - The characteristics of the working environment, and its hazards.
- People:
 - Decisions made by people, at every level, and in every role within a project or facility, can affect their own safety, and the safety of others around them.

These guidelines address aspects of each of these areas, with a focus on work at height (WAH); other hazards may be mentioned, but are not addressed in detail.

The guidelines are in four parts, based on the scope of work agreed in discussion with the G+ Work at Height Focal Group:

- Life cycle phase checklists:
 - A checklist for each phase (design, construction, commissioning and operation) to prompt those involved to find ways to reduce the requirement for work at height.
- Topic guidance:
 - This adopts a goal-setting approach to five key aspects of WAH;
 - The topics were selected on the basis of:
 - A review of G9 incident data for 2011/2; the more recent G+ data have informed the development of the revised guideline.
 - Workshop discussions with G9/G+ representatives.
 - Surveys to identify areas of concern, conducted amongst G9 representatives, and WAH refresher training candidates at heightec in 2013.
 - For each of the five topics, the guidance addresses:
 - common hazards;
 - PPE and other relevant standards;
 - training, skills and competence;
 - fitness requirements, and
 - responsibilities of those procuring, supervising and undertaking work.
- Flowcharts to support the preparation and review of procedures.
- Supporting information on:
 - Regulatory requirements in the EU and selected nations.
 - The first edition included the UK, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands and France, all of which have a common baseline of EU directives.
 - This revised edition also considers China, Japan, Taiwan and the USA.
 - Existing guidance on WAH.
 - Equipment and technical standards.
 - Existing fitness standards in wind, oil and gas and maritime sectors.
 - Analysis of G+ member incident data relating to WAH and areas of concern from surveys.