

# Guidance for the avoidance of vibration-induced fatigue failure in subsea systems

# GUIDELINES FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF VIBRATION-INDUCED FATIGUE FAILURE IN SUBSEA SYSTEMS

First edition

September 2018

Published by

**Energy Institute, London**

The Energy Institute is a professional membership body incorporated by Royal Charter 2003  
Registered charity number 1097899

The Energy Institute (EI) is the chartered professional membership body for the energy industry, supporting over 20 000 individuals working in or studying energy and 250 energy companies worldwide. The EI provides learning and networking opportunities to support professional development, as well as professional recognition and technical and scientific knowledge resources on energy in all its forms and applications.

The EI's purpose is to develop and disseminate knowledge, skills and good practice towards a safe, secure and sustainable energy system. In fulfilling this mission, the EI addresses the depth and breadth of the energy sector, from fuels and fuels distribution to health and safety, sustainability and the environment. It also informs policy by providing a platform for debate and scientifically-sound information on energy issues.

The EI is licensed by:

- the Engineering Council to award Chartered, Incorporated and Engineering Technician status, and
- the Society for the Environment to award Chartered Environmentalist status.

It also offers its own Chartered Energy Engineer, Chartered Petroleum Engineer, and Chartered Energy Manager titles.

A registered charity, the EI serves society with independence, professionalism and a wealth of expertise in all energy matters.

This publication has been produced as a result of work carried out within the Technical Team of the EI, funded by the EI's Technical Partners. The EI's Technical Work Programme provides industry with cost-effective, value-adding knowledge on key current and future issues affecting those operating in the energy sector, both in the UK and internationally.

For further information, please visit <http://www.energyinst.org>

The EI gratefully acknowledges the financial contributions towards the scientific and technical programme from the following companies

Andeavor	Phillips 66
Apache North Sea	Qatar Petroleum
BP Exploration Operating Co Ltd	Repsol Sinopec
BP Oil UK Ltd	RWE npower
Centrica	Saudi Aramco
Chevron North Sea Ltd	Scottish Power
Chevron Products Company	SGS
Chrysaor	Shell UK Oil Products Limited
CLH	Shell U.K. Exploration and Production Ltd
ConocoPhillips Ltd	SSE
DCC Energy	Statkraft
EDF Energy	Statoil
ENGIE	TAQA Bratani
ENI	Total E&P UK Limited
E. ON UK	Total UK Limited
ExxonMobil International Ltd	Tullow Oil
Innogy	Uniper
Kuwait Petroleum International Ltd	Valero
Maersk Oil North Sea UK Limited	Vattenfall
Nexen CNOOC	Vitol Energy
Ørsted	Woodside
Perenco	World Fuel Services

However, it should be noted that the above organisations have not all been directly involved in the development of this publication, nor do they necessarily endorse its content.

Copyright © 2018 by the Energy Institute, London.

The Energy Institute is a professional membership body incorporated by Royal Charter 2003.

Registered charity number 1097899, England

All rights reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced by any means, or transmitted or translated into a machine language without the written permission of the publisher.

ISBN 978 0 85293 978 9

Published by the Energy Institute

The information contained in this publication is provided for general information purposes only. Whilst the Energy Institute and the contributors have applied reasonable care in developing this publication, no representations or warranties, express or implied, are made by the Energy Institute or any of the contributors concerning the applicability, suitability, accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein and the Energy Institute and the contributors accept no responsibility whatsoever for the use of this information. Neither the Energy Institute nor any of the contributors shall be liable in any way for any liability, loss, cost or damage incurred as a result of the receipt or use of the information contained herein.

Hard copy and electronic access to EI and IP publications is available via our website, <https://publishing.energyinst.org>.

Documents can be purchased online as downloadable pdfs or on an annual subscription for single users and companies.

For more information, contact the EI Publications Team.

e: [pubs@energyinst.org](mailto:pubs@energyinst.org)

## CONTENTS

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>11</b>
1.1 Scope .....	11
1.2 Overview of piping vibration on subsea facilities .....	11
1.2.1 Flow-induced turbulence .....	12
1.2.2 Flow-induced pressure pulsations .....	12
1.2.3 High-frequency acoustic excitation .....	12
1.2.4 Surge/momentum changes .....	12
1.2.5 Cavitation and flashing .....	13
1.2.6 Vortex-induced vibration .....	13
1.2.7 Mechanical excitation .....	13
1.2.8 Structural dynamic response .....	13
1.3 Vulnerability and risk .....	13
<b>2 Management systems</b> .....	<b>15</b>
2.1 Integration with integrity management activities .....	15
2.2 Flow-induced vibration management process .....	15
<b>3 Design and construction</b> .....	<b>17</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	17
3.2 Policy, philosophy and specifications .....	17
3.3 Design activities .....	18
3.3.1 Good design practice .....	18
3.3.2 Design checklist .....	18
3.3.3 Initial screening assessment .....	18
3.3.4 Detailed fatigue life assessment .....	21
3.4 Vibration control .....	22
3.4.1 Controlling excitation .....	22
3.4.2 Controlling response .....	22
3.5 Fatigue-resistant design .....	22
3.6 Design deliverables .....	22
3.7 Monitoring systems .....	23
3.7.1 Requirement for monitoring .....	23
3.7.2 Monitoring parameters .....	23
3.7.3 Monitoring system requirements .....	24
3.7.4 Use of data .....	25
3.8 Verification activities .....	25
3.9 Management of change .....	26
<b>4 Existing systems</b> .....	<b>27</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	27
4.2 Policy, philosophy and specifications .....	27
4.3 Assessment activities .....	28
4.3.1 Assessment checklist .....	28
4.3.2 Initial screening assessment .....	29
4.3.3 Detailed fatigue life assessment .....	32

**Contents continued**

	<b>Page</b>
4.4 Vibration control . . . . .	32
4.4.1 Controlling excitation . . . . .	32
4.4.2 Controlling response . . . . .	32
4.5 Assessment deliverables . . . . .	33
4.6 Monitoring systems . . . . .	33
4.7 Verification activities . . . . .	33
4.8 Management of change . . . . .	34
 <b>Annexes</b>	
<b>Annex A: Glossaries of terms, acronyms and abbreviations . . . . .</b>	<b>35</b>
A.1 Introduction . . . . .	35
A.2 Glossary of terms . . . . .	35
A.3 Glossary of acronyms and abbreviations . . . . .	36
<b>Annex B: References . . . . .</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Annex C: Competency requirements . . . . .</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Annex D: Good design practice . . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>
D.1 General . . . . .	41
D.2 Main process piping . . . . .	41
D.3 Branch connections to main process piping (including instruments) . . . . .	42
D.4 Rough bore flexibles in gas service (risers and jumpers) . . . . .	46
D.5 Associated equipment and instrumentation . . . . .	47
<b>Annex E: Screening methodology . . . . .</b>	<b>55</b>
E.1 General . . . . .	55
E.2 Flow-induced turbulence . . . . .	55
E.2.1 Extent of excitation . . . . .	55
E.2.2 Inputs . . . . .	56
E.2.3 Standard assessment for flow-induced turbulence . . . . .	56
E.2.4 Additional correction for flexible piping . . . . .	59
E.2.5 Modification for source type (single phase fluids only) . . . . .	60
E.3 Pulsation: flow-induced excitation . . . . .	62
E.3.1 Extent of excitation . . . . .	62
E.3.2 Input . . . . .	62
E.3.3 Calculation of likelihood of failure (LoF) . . . . .	62
E.4 Flip from rough bore risers/jumpers . . . . .	64
E.4.1 Extent of excitation . . . . .	64
E.4.2 Input . . . . .	64
E.4.3 Methodology . . . . .	65
E.4.4 Determination of likelihood of failure (LoF) . . . . .	65
E.5 High-frequency acoustic excitation . . . . .	66
E.5.1 Extent of excitation . . . . .	66
E.5.2 Input . . . . .	66
E.5.3 Calculation of likelihood of failure (LoF) . . . . .	67
E.6 Surge/momentum changes due to valve operation . . . . .	69
E.6.1 Overview . . . . .	69
E.6.2 Information requirements . . . . .	70
E.6.3 Calculation of likelihood of failure (LoF) . . . . .	72

**Contents continued**

	<b>Page</b>
E.7 Cavitation and flashing . . . . .	75
E.7.1 Extent of excitation . . . . .	75
E.7.2 Calculation of likelihood of failure (LoF) . . . . .	75
E.8 Mechanical excitation . . . . .	76
E.8.1 Extent of excitation . . . . .	76
E.8.2 Calculation of likelihood of failure (LoF) . . . . .	76
E.9 Small bore connections. . . . .	77
E.9.1 Overall assessment methodology . . . . .	77
E.9.2 Geometry assessment methodology . . . . .	78
E.9.3 Assessment guidance . . . . .	80
<b>Annex F: Overview of an approach to fatigue prediction . . . . .</b>	<b>87</b>
F.1 Introduction . . . . .	87
F.2 Discrete frequency excitation . . . . .	87
F.2.1 Finite element model generation . . . . .	88
F.2.2 Prediction of harmonic response . . . . .	88
F.2.3 Calculation of fatigue life . . . . .	88
F.3 Random broadband excitation . . . . .	88
F.3.1 Finite element model generation . . . . .	89
F.3.2 Prediction of frequency response functions . . . . .	89
F.3.3 Determination of excitation power spectral densities . . . . .	89
F.3.4 Prediction of overall RMS and maximum response . . . . .	91
F.3.5 Damage calculation . . . . .	92
F.4 General aspects . . . . .	93
F.4.1 Added mass . . . . .	93
F.4.2 Damping . . . . .	93
F.4.3 S-N data . . . . .	94
F.4.4 Safety factors . . . . .	94
<b>Annex G: Vibration control and fatigue mitigation . . . . .</b>	<b>95</b>
G.1 Controlling excitation . . . . .	95
G.1.1 Flow-induced turbulence . . . . .	95
G.1.2 Pulsation – flow-induced . . . . .	96
G.1.3 Flip. . . . .	96
G.1.4 High-frequency acoustic excitation . . . . .	97
G.1.5 Surge/momentum changes associated with valves . . . . .	98
G.1.6 Cavitation and flashing . . . . .	99
G.2 Controlling response . . . . .	99
G.2.1 General corrective actions affecting pipework response . . . . .	99
G.2.2 Flow-induced turbulence . . . . .	100
G.2.3 Pulsation – flow induced . . . . .	102
G.2.4 Flip. . . . .	102
G.2.5 High-frequency acoustic excitation . . . . .	102
G.2.6 Surge/momentum changes associated with valves . . . . .	103
G.2.7 Cavitation and flashing . . . . .	103
G.3 Small bore connections. . . . .	104
G.3.1 General SBC corrective actions . . . . .	104
G.3.2 SBC corrective actions for tonal excitation . . . . .	105

**Contents continued**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Annex H: Monitoring systems</b> . . . . .	<b>106</b>
H.1 Introduction . . . . .	106
H.2 Parameter selection . . . . .	106
H.3 Monitoring system specification . . . . .	107
H.3.1 Monitored dynamic parameters . . . . .	108
H.3.2 Transducer requirements . . . . .	108
H.3.3 Data acquisition requirements . . . . .	108
H.3.4 Data recovery . . . . .	109
H.3.5 Data processing . . . . .	109
H.3.6 Functional design and FAT . . . . .	109
<b>Annex I: Sample parameters</b> . . . . .	<b>110</b>
I.1 Main line support . . . . .	110
I.2 Dynamic viscosity . . . . .	111
I.3 Specific heat ratio ( $c_p/c_v$ ) . . . . .	112
I.4 Molecular weights . . . . .	112
I.5 Vapour pressure . . . . .	112
I.6 Valve closing assumptions . . . . .	112
I.7 Upstream pipe length . . . . .	112
I.8 Speed of sound . . . . .	113
I.8.1 Gases . . . . .	113
I.8.2 Liquids . . . . .	113
I.9 Reynolds number . . . . .	114

## LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

		Page
<b>Figures</b>		
Figure 1.1	Criticality matrix linking likelihood of failure calculation from these guidelines and consequence of failure from the user . . . . .	14
Figure 3.1	Design flowchart for new facilities . . . . .	17
Figure 4.1	Flowchart for existing facilities . . . . .	28
Figure D.1	Braced support columns . . . . .	47
Figure D.2	Potentially ineffective support . . . . .	48
Figure D.3	Main line supports – examples of poor practice . . . . .	48
Figure D.4	Support of valve . . . . .	49
Figure D.5	SBC geometry, poor practice of cantilevered or excessive mass . . . . .	49
Figure D.6	Bracing of SBCs – poor and good practice . . . . .	50
Figure D.7	Bracing of SBCs – poor practice of bracing to deck or neighbouring structure . . . . .	51
Figure D.8	Branch close to pipe support . . . . .	52
Figure D.9	Extended actuators . . . . .	52
Figure D.10	Two-plane brace . . . . .	53
Figure D.11	Pipe clamp . . . . .	53
Figure D.12	Double U-bolts . . . . .	53
Figure D.13	Weldolet weld profile . . . . .	54
Figure D.14	Tee block fitting . . . . .	54
Figure E.1	Flow-induced turbulence assessment for a given line . . . . .	56
Figure E.3.1	Pulsation: Flow-induced excitation assessment . . . . .	63
Figure E.4.1	Carcass geometry . . . . .	64
Figure E.4.2	Determination of LoF . . . . .	65
Figure E.5.1	High-frequency acoustic fatigue assessment . . . . .	67
Figure E.5.2	High-frequency acoustic fatigue assessment . . . . .	68
Figure E.6.1	Dry gas rapid valve opening assessment . . . . .	72
Figure E.6.2	Liquid or multi-phase valve closure assessment . . . . .	73
Figure E.6.3	Liquid or multi-phase valve opening assessment . . . . .	74
Figure E.7.1	Cavitation and flashing assessment . . . . .	75
Figure E.9.1	Determining the SBC LoF score . . . . .	78
Figure E.9.2	Type 1 cantilever SBC . . . . .	78
Figure E.9.3	Type 1 SBC assessment methodology . . . . .	78
Figure E.9.4	Type 1 SBC assessment methodology . . . . .	79
Figure E.9.5	Location assessment methodology . . . . .	80
Figure E.9.6	Length for SBC with a branch . . . . .	81
Figure E.9.7	Length for SBC with a necked section . . . . .	82
Figure E.9.8	Length for SBC with supports . . . . .	83
Figure E.9.9	Length for SBC with unsupported mass . . . . .	84
Figure E.9.10	Connected SBCs . . . . .	86
Figure F.1	Methodology for discrete frequency excitation . . . . .	87
Figure F.2	Typical methodology for random broadband excitation . . . . .	89
Figure F.3	Typical non-dimensionalised pressure PSD for turbulent excitation . . . . .	90
Figure F.4	Typical non-dimensionalised force PSD for two-phase excitation . . . . .	91
Figure F.5	Typical vibration time history for random (two-phase) excitation . . . . .	92
Figure G.1	Key carcass geometric properties . . . . .	97
Figure G.2	Turbulent energy as a function of frequency . . . . .	100
Figure G.3	Effect of installing mass dampers on pipework response . . . . .	101
Figure G.3.1	Corrective actions methodology for SBCs . . . . .	104



**List of figures and tables continued**

	<b>Page</b>
Figure I.1	Piping support arrangements . . . . . 111
Figure I.2	Variation of gas dynamic viscosity with temperature . . . . . 114
Figure I.3	Specific heat ratio – methane . . . . . 115
Figure I.4	Specific heat ratio – chlorine . . . . . 115
Figure I.5	Specific heat ratio – air . . . . . 116
Figure I.6	Specific heat ratio – steam . . . . . 116
Figure I.7	Vapour pressure for water . . . . . 117

**Tables**

Table 2.1	Design framework. . . . . 15
Table 3.1	Potential excitation mechanisms . . . . . 19
Table 3.2	Design actions based on main line LoF score . . . . . 20
Table 3.3	Design actions based on SBC LoF score . . . . . 21
Table 4.1	Potential excitation mechanisms . . . . . 29
Table 4.2	Remedial actions based on main line LoF score . . . . . 30
Table 4.3	Design actions based on SBC LoF score . . . . . 31
Table D.1	Good design practice for main process piping . . . . . 41
Table D.2	Good design practice for branch connections . . . . . 42
Table D.3	Good design practice for rough bore flexibles . . . . . 46
Table D.4	Good design practice for associated equipment. . . . . 47
Table E.1	Screening assessment modules . . . . . 55
Table E.2	Information requirements . . . . . 56
Table E.3	Support arrangement . . . . . 58
Table E.4	Method of calculating $F_v$ . . . . . 58
Table E.5	Coefficients. . . . . 61
Table E.6	Information requirements . . . . . 62
Table E.7	Information requirements . . . . . 64
Table E.8	Information requirements . . . . . 66
Table E.9	Information requirements . . . . . 70
Table E.10	Correction factor by support type . . . . . 72
Table E.11	Flow area as a function of time for different valve types . . . . . 74
Table E.12	Liquid pressure recovery factors. . . . . 75
Table E.13	Mechanical excitation values . . . . . 76
Table E.14	LOF scores for ANSI 900 or greater . . . . . 79
Table E.15	LOF scores for different branch lengths . . . . . 80
Table E.16	LOF scores for different numbers of valves. . . . . 81
Table E.17	LOF scores for different numbers of valves (ANSI 900 or greater). . . . . 82
Table E.18	LOF scores for different fitting diameters. . . . . 82
Table E.19	Fitting types – example drawings. . . . . 83
Table E.20	LOF scores by pipe schedule . . . . . 84
Table E.21	LOF score for different fitting locations . . . . . 85
Table F.1	Damping values. . . . . 94
Table H.1	Monitoring system options . . . . . 108
Table I.1	Index of sample parameters. . . . . 110
Table I.2	Typical molecular weights . . . . . 112
Table I.3	Typical values for speed of sound in liquids . . . . . 113

## FOREWORD

Development of this publication was commissioned by the Energy Institute (EI) as part of its STAC Technical programme.

Existing guidance on vibration in piping systems (*Guidelines for the avoidance of vibration-induced fatigue in process pipework*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2008) is aimed at topsides and onshore piping systems. Given the unique challenges associated with subsea systems it was identified that separate guidance was warranted.

The objectives associated with the development of this document were therefore:

- To identify good design practice and hence ensure a robust design.
- To extend the screening methodologies to include additional excitation mechanisms, and reduce the conservatism in certain methods.
- To provide additional guidance on detailed fatigue assessment approaches.
- To provide guidance on vibration-monitoring methods for use subsea, and the use of monitoring data.

The information contained in this publication is provided as guidance only and while every reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of its contents, the EI cannot accept any responsibility for any action taken, or not taken, on the basis of this information. The EI shall not be liable to any person for any loss or damage which may arise from the use of any of the information contained in any of its publications.

The information contained in this publication is provided for guidance only and while every reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of its contents, the EI and the technical representatives listed in the Acknowledgements, cannot accept any responsibility for any action taken, or not taken, on the basis of this information. The EI shall not be liable to any person for any loss or damage which may arise from the use of any of the information contained in any of its publications.