**OCIMF Publishes F(P)SO Heading Control Guidelines**

**Monday 02 November 2020 – (LONDON)** The Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) has today released a new information paper, *F(P)SO Heading Control Guidelines*. The information paper provides recommendations to safely manage heading control operations of turret moored Floating (Production) Storage and Offloading (F(P)SO) facilities. F(P)SO heading control operations are undertaken to enable surveys, installation works, maintenance works and associated F(P)SO operations, often while the facility remains in operation, and are exposed to a wide range of hazards.

OCIMF has developed the *F(P)SO Heading Control Guidelines* as previous incidents during heading control operations have shown a need for greater awareness amongst personnel of both the risks associated with these operations and the precautions that can be taken. In particular, the authors note that, in past incidents, insufficient consideration has been given to the operational limits at which operations should be suspended or aborted. An underestimation of bollard pull requirements to maintain a defined heading has also led to loss of position, endangering operations that require heading control, including diving activities.

The heading control assurance activities outlined in OCIMF’s *F(P)SO Heading Control Guidelines* aim to reduce these risks and improve heading control operations.

Robert Drysdale, Managing Director of OCIMF, comments:

*“In the past, incidents during heading control operations have highlighted that an insufficient level of consideration has been given to the wide range of safety and operational risks that can be encountered during these complex and highly variable operations. This obviously poses a very real risk of harm to people and the environment, which we hope can be prevented by all relevant personnel familiarising themselves with these newly published guidelines and adopting the recommendations given.”*

The information paper provides guidance on the risks and consequences of loss of F(P)SO heading control, outlines heading control assurance guidance and details potential hazards as well as F(P)SO redundancy measures. The guidance also covers crew training and competency considerations, requirements for F(P)SO deck equipment, Heading Control Tug (HCT) suitability and communications procedures.

To improve the management of heading control operations, the information paper also includes an assurance tool and a standard methodology to calculate the bollard pull requirements for HCTs. The methodology has been developed in close cooperation with the Maritime Research Institute Netherlands (MARIN).

The information paper supplements OCIMF’s *Cargo Guidelines for F(P)SOs* and should be read along with the relevant guidance for F(P)SO heading control.

The paper is available and free to download from [www.ocimf.org](http://www.ocimf.org)

**Notes to Editor**

1. The Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) is a voluntary association of oil companies with an interest in the shipment and terminalling of crude oil, oil products, petrochemicals and gas. OCIMF focuses exclusively on preventing harm to people and the environment by promoting best practice in the design, construction and operation of tankers, barges and offshore vessels and their interfaces with terminals.

**Vision**  
A global marine industry that causes no harm to people or the environment.

**Mission**  
To lead the global marine industry in the promotion of safe and environmentally responsible transportation of crude oil, oil products, petrochemicals and gas, and to drive the same values in the management of related offshore marine operations.   
  
We do this by developing best practices in the design, construction and safe  
operation of tankers, barges and offshore vessels and their interfaces with terminals and considering human factors in everything we do.

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