

SAFETY TRAINING

ATLANTIC CANADA'S OFFSHORE OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY



Keeping people safe is the first consideration in all aspects of offshore oil and natural gas activity. Making sure employees have the skills necessary to do their jobs safely by providing relevant and appropriate training is one of the ways the industry strives to keep employees safe.

REQUIRED SAFETY TRAINING

The following safety training courses are mandatory to work on an offshore installation in Atlantic Canada:

- Basic Survival Training (BST) provides workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to react effectively to an offshore emergency and to care for themselves and others in a survival situation.
- Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) Awareness educates personnel about the dangers associated with H₂S gas and the appropriate response measures to be taken should it be encountered.
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) training provides advice on the safe handling, use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials in the workplace.
- Regulatory Awareness Training outlines applicable safety related legislation and regulations and provides an overview of the regulatory regime for offshore oil and natural gas activity in Atlantic Canada.
- Offshore Security Awareness Training applies to all persons travelling to an offshore installation, including contractors.

Depending on the facility and the employee's position, additional training may be required. These courses, as well as the mandatory safety training courses, are outlined in the *Atlantic Canada Offshore Petroleum Industry Standard Practice for the Training and Qualifications of Personnel* (the Standard Practice).

Individuals, regardless of position or installation, also receive installation-specific instruction and training on operational and safety procedures, including those to be followed in the event of an emergency.

Learn more about the safety training required to work in Atlantic Canada's offshore oil and natural gas industry in the *Atlantic Canada Offshore Petroleum Industry Standard Practice for the Training and Qualifications of Personnel* online at capp.ca

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

Trained and qualified personnel are designated to respond in an emergency situation.

Emergency response teams include:

- **Fast Rescue Boat Teams**
- **Helideck Teams**
- **Technical Response Teams**
- **Fire Teams**
- **First Aid Teams**
- **MedEvac Teams**
- **Rescue Craft Teams**
- **Survival Craft Teams**

TRAINING FOR POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES

The industry views training as a critical component of emergency preparedness and response planning. In addition to completing mandatory safety training courses, all employees are required to be familiar with emergency response procedures which are practiced regularly through drills and exercises at offshore facilities.

Individuals travelling by helicopter or support vessel receive a safety briefing before every transfer to remind them of the proper use of emergency response equipment and associated procedures.

In Newfoundland and Labrador the *Code of Practice for Employee Transfer via Vessels* sets out the proper vessel transfer methods.

Operators are also required to designate emergency response teams, consisting of specially trained and qualified personnel, to respond quickly and effectively to a variety of offshore emergency situations. Each person assigned to an emergency response team receives initial training and participates in refresher training and onboard emergency drills and exercises to keep skills and training up-to-date.



BASIC SURVIVAL TRAINING

BST is a five-day course designed to give trainees the skills to react effectively in an offshore emergency situation. Topics covered include firefighting basics, installation evacuation, helicopter safety and escape procedures, rescue, and use of personal protective equipment. The course involves lectures in a classroom setting as well as practical exercises such as a sea day where trainees participate in an evacuation at sea using lifesaving equipment.

Anyone can apply for a BST course provided they have a valid medical certificate. CAPP's *Medical Assessment Guideline for Fitness to Work Offshore* is commonly accepted by operators and training institutes as guidance for a medical assessment. However, operators and training institutes may have specific policies related to the medical assessment and who can complete it. It is best to consult with the employer or training institute for more information.

REFRESHING SAFETY TRAINING

Most mandatory safety training must be repeated every one, two or three years depending on the type of training. The refresher course for BST, Basic Survival Training Recurrent (BST-R), is a two-day course focusing on updates in technology or processes since initial training was completed and reviewing and practicing competencies learned during the BST course. BST-R must be completed every three years.



SAFETY TRAINING FOR VISITORS

All persons travelling offshore are required to have training prior to boarding the helicopter or support vessel. Short term or infrequent visitors, such as media, dignitaries or specialist contractors, may complete the Offshore Survival Introduction (OSI) course instead of the five-day BST program. The OSI is targeted to visitors who have not completed the BST and who are not expected to spend more than six nights offshore during a 12-month period. The OSI certificate is valid for one year and the visitor must be closely supervised for the duration of his or her stay offshore.

TRAINING STANDARDS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

The Atlantic Canada Offshore Petroleum Training and Qualifications Committee (TQC) was established to develop and maintain a Standard Practice for training and qualifications requirements for offshore personnel. The TQC is comprised of representatives from the Offshore Petroleum Boards in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia, along with CAPP, the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors (CAODC) and offshore workforce representatives. The Standard Practice is reviewed, revised, and published approximately every two years to reflect advancements in technology, changes in best practices locally and internationally, and new research findings.

The Standard Practice describes the minimum qualifications and certified safety training required of individuals working offshore.

It outlines mandatory safety training for all personnel, training requirements related to emergency preparedness, specialized technical training, personnel qualifications and training for certain positions, and standby/support vessel personnel qualifications and training. Operators also develop their own training and competency requirements to address training requirements specific to their projects that are not covered in the Standard Practice. The Standard Practice does not, for example, cover all aspects of training and competency assurance as it relates to internal company procedures, processes and equipment.



All persons travelling to Atlantic Canada's offshore are required to have training prior to visiting an offshore oil or natural gas installation.



MANAGING AND REGULATING SAFETY TRAINING

Offshore Petroleum Boards in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia have been set up jointly by the federal and provincial governments in each province to regulate the offshore petroleum industry. The Offshore Petroleum Boards regulate all aspects of safety, including training, with the exception of training and certification which falls under the jurisdiction of Transport Canada.

Operators are required to ensure that the training used in the Atlantic Canada offshore meets the intent of the Standard Practice.



TRAINING AUDIT AND REVIEW

Many training courses are audited or reviewed by independent third parties. For those safety courses listed in the Standard Practice that are not reviewed or audited by independent third parties, the TQC established a quality review process for those courses offered in Atlantic Canada. The reviews are conducted to ensure courses meet the intent of the Standard Practice and to identify recommendations for improvements in quality where appropriate.

A JURISDICTIONAL APPROACH

Each offshore jurisdiction has its own standards and regulations related to training and qualifications. The Standard Practice outlines international equivalencies for certain courses. In other cases, employers can decide whether or not training received in other jurisdictions meets the criteria outlined for training requirements in Atlantic Canada via an exemption and equivalency process outlined in the Standard Practice. To find out if a training certificate is valid in another jurisdiction, contact the offshore petroleum industry regulator for that jurisdiction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Canadian Association of
Petroleum Producers
atlanticcanadaoffshore.ca

Canada-Newfoundland and
Labrador Offshore Petroleum
Board
cnlopb.ca

Canada-Nova Scotia
Offshore Petroleum Board
cnsopb.ca

Canadian Association of
Oilwell Drilling Contractors
caodc.ca

Transport Canada
tc.gc.ca

The Standard Practice is
available at capp.ca.