

Impact of Paris MoU Guidelines on the Global Offshore Industry

UNDERSTANDING THE GUIDELINES

The Paris MoU's Guidelines for PSC Inspections of Ships Carrying Industrial Personnel introduce a harmonized inspection approach for vessels carriage of industrial personnel (IP). These guidelines enforce compliance with the new Chapter XV of SOLAS, which sets mandatory safety measures for vessels engaged in offshore industrial activities.

BROADER APPLICABILITY

The guidelines apply to cargo ships and high-speed craft of 500 gross tons (gt) or more carrying over 12 IP. These guidelines impact vessels supporting offshore oil and gas, wind farms and other industrial activities, necessitating strict compliance with the IP Code.

INSPECTION PROTOCOLS

Ships subject to these guidelines, including offshore support vessels (OSVs) and similar vessels, must hold a valid Industrial Personnel Safety Certificate, demonstrating compliance with specific SOLAS requirements. Inspection focuses include certification, stability, manning, transfer arrangements and training of personnel on board.

OPERATIONAL AND DESIGN COMPLIANCE

- **Design Requirements:** Vessels must align with safety regulations outlined in the IP Code, which includes considerations for vessel structure, stability during personnel transfer and IP transportation, accommodation arrangements and compliance with hazardous cargo standards, if applicable. Stability plays a critical role in ensuring safety across all operations, not only during personnel transfers but also throughout the transportation and accommodation of IP.
- **Personnel Training:** All industrial personnel must meet specified training and safety standards, including personal survival, fire safety, and personal safety and social responsibility training prior to boarding.

IMPLICATIONS FOR OFFSHORE SUPPORT VESSELS

Offshore support vessels (OSVs), which are critical for offshore operations such as installation, maintenance and decommissioning, must ensure compliance with these guidelines. The regulations could influence vessel design, certification processes and crew training, potentially requiring operational adjustments.

DEFICIENCY MANAGEMENT AND RISK MITIGATION

ABS advises shipowners and offshore operators to proactively assess their fleets against these guidelines to identify potential compliance gaps. Deficiencies, such as missing certifications or insufficient training documentation, could lead to ship detentions, impacting operational timelines and financial outcomes.



ABS RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Early Compliance Assessments:

Conduct a comprehensive review of vessels and onboard personnel to identify gaps in meeting the new IP Code standards.

2

Documentation and Training Alignment:

Ensure all required documents, such as the Industrial Personnel Safety Certificate, are up-to-date and accessible. Verify that personnel training meets the guidelines.

3

Collaborative Approach:

Work with ABS to understand the full scope of the IP Code and implement necessary changes for compliance. ABS can offer guidance on structural design, stability and safety measures to align with the guidelines.

The new Paris MoU Guidelines signify a major shift for OSVs and the broader industry. Staying ahead of these regulatory changes may help to minimize risks, enhance safety and maintain operational continuity.

Scan the QR code below for additional details about the IP Code, including a general overview, structure of Code, implementation and full details of the Paris MoU Guidelines for PSC inspections of Ships carrying Industrial Personnel.



For more detailed assistance and compliance support, please reach out to your ABS representative or contact ABS at globaloffshore@eagle.org.



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