

Helicopter Operations Safety Committee (HOSC)

Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Location:

Statoil - Cormack Building, Level 3

Attendees:

Steve Moore (Cougar Helicopters Rep)
Ray Dalton (Suncor Energy – Operator Rep – Chair)
Matthew Hawco (C-NLOPB)
Justin Tibbo (Henry Goodrich – Worker Rep)
John Whelan (Hibernia – Workforce Rep)
Andrea Gruchy (Husky Energy – Operator Administrator)
Robert Normore (C-NSOPB)
Dennis Ricard (HMDC – Operator Rep)
Alistair Mellis (Statoil – Operator Rep)
Craig Williams (Terra Nova FPSO – Workforce Rep)
Lesley Pardy (CHC Helicopters Canada Rep)
Emmanuel Deriaz (CHC Helicopters Canada Rep)
Franck Pelegry (CHC Helicopters Canada Rep)

Peter McKeage (C-NLOPB Rep) – *via teleconference*

Wayne Walsh (GSF Grand Banks – Worker Rep) – *via teleconference*

Jeff Hurley (Encana) – *via teleconference*

Decisions and Actions are in bold type

1. **Safety Moment**

Alistair reiterated the importance of driving hands free in his presentation. Driver distractions are the leading factor in fatal and serious injury crashes; hands-free devices in vehicles offer no extra safety. It is important to remember the quote: “on the road, off the phone”.

2. **HOSC Member Update**

Mark Sullivan (Worker Representative) has joined the HOSC. Robert Normore indicated that this would be his last meeting and that Roberta Spicer will take his place as C-NSOPB Observer. The committee would like to welcome both Mark and Roberta and thank Robert for his contribution.

Alistair noted that a representative is also required from the West Hercules.

3. **Cougar Helicopters Update**

There were 10 Customer Flight Notifications (CFNs) since the last HOSC meeting. Steve reviewed each notification; one CFN was C-NLOPB reportable (loss of communication). As this is still under investigation, Steve will discuss in more detail at the next meeting.

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Regarding manifest discrepancies, the helideck staff will receive ½ day training in the near future.

Steve will also send the safety message regarding manifest discrepancies to all HOSC members.

A discussion occurred about the Sikorsky simulator visit. The S-92 slots are at a premium; there is currently an extensive amount of training ongoing. **Ray requested a quote on the costs associated with the visit so operator management can pre-approve. Steve agreed to get a quote.**

4. CHC Helicopters Canada Update

CHC had a successful first month in operation with the first flight occurring on October 13. The C-NLOPB conducted a helideck inspection and CHC completed 5 passenger flights.

There was one customer flight notification in relation to the main gearbox chip light (on return from West Hercules, the light appeared but diminished prior to landing in YYT). Sikorsky reviewed and recommended a gearbox change out. Work is ongoing. It was noted by Lesley that passengers were not briefed upon arrival.

The question was raised in a previous meeting about the use of SAR techs on CHC medevac flights. Lesley reiterated that SAR techs will not be used as two AOMS crew will be onboard (extra training has been provided).

5. Recommendations 20 Review

The committee completed the review of [Recommendation 20](#): Worker and Pilot Involvement in Helicopter Safety Issues. The committee agreed that this recommendation has been fully implemented. **The next recommendations that will be reviewed are [Recommendation 25 \(Safety Forums\)](#) and [Recommendation 26 \(Safety Conferences\)](#). Please review these documents prior to the next meeting.**

Committee Recommendations

It was discussed previously that the committee has yet to make a recommendation and that there should be a mechanism for action. All agreed that the Helicopter Steering Committee (a weekly operator management meeting) should be the correct venue for this. Below is an update on the two previous recommendations brought forward:

UPDATE:

- i. Procedure for work refusal at third party locations such as Cougar, CHC, A. Harvey, etc.: all HOSC members agreed that this should be consistent amongst all operators. **The Helicopter Steering Committee approved this initiative and it has been implemented at Cougar for all operators. Steve will forward this procedure to Lesley for CHC implementation.**

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- ii. SkyRouter on installations: John and Dennis will discuss with HMDC management. **This will be discussed at the upcoming Helicopter Steering Committee meeting (HOSC members attending meeting for signing of the HOSC charter).**

Minutes are posted on all offshore installations but should be uploaded to the C-NLOPB's website. **Matthew will upload outstanding minutes online.**

6. C-NLOPB Aviation Advisor Update

The Operational Safety Review (OSR) report is still with operators for review.

EASA RMT.0210 (Ditching Occupant Survivability) working group is moving forward. Peter was unable to attend the meetings.

[CAP 1145](#): successful EBS deployment has occurred in the North Sea (26,000 units). Ray asked if only dry training is occurring with new EBS. Peter confirmed.

A review of window size is ongoing; 46,000 people were surveyed and sizing completed. A new initiative regarding extra big and tall categories include marking head rests for large/tall people.

Transport Canada meetings are taking place next week. Peter noted that rig approach software has been approved for use in Canada and will be promoted ASAP on the east coast. This sophisticated software will allow aircraft to fly by itself on approach and no update is required to equipment on installations.

C-NLOPB is reviewing the risks of helicopters running on deck. C-NLOPB representatives visited the Terra Nova FPSO last week. A root cause analysis is ongoing; all platforms may be reviewed. Peter noted that [CAP 437](#) has some interesting information regarding this topic. Ray asked Peter if the C-NLOPB is going to provide a timeline on how long a helicopter can remain on deck. Peter stated that they are in early stages of review.

7. Heli-Transport Undergarment Study – Jeff Hurley (Encana)

Climate Technical Gear was awarded the R&D project by Encana; the focus of the study was to review in-water thermal performance of clothing systems worn underneath helicopter transportation suits. A number of different materials were studied and work is continuing on a water shield concept (a waterproof piece of clothing worn over existing clothing; it was noted that this may affect the buoyancy of the suit). The concept is water dry; no sea water leakage was observed. The current issue revolves around the acquisition of a new flight suit which is being introduced in 2015 (the new suit is a different prototype than the HTS-1).

The study will be finished in December (the final report issued to Encana, then through CAPP).

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Encana will be providing guidance on what to wear under the new Survitec suit before implementation (which will be presented through the CAPP committee).

Jeff will forward the draft copy of the study to Andrea who will forward to all committee members.

8. Action Log

The action log was reviewed and the following items were updated:

- i. Operator management representatives will sign off on the charter at the next Helicopter Steering Committee meeting (November 12). The Chair of the HOSC, an Operator and Offshore Representative to sign off on charter and then it will be completed.
- ii. Dr. Susan Coleshaw's report regarding performance goals for BST training is still with CAPP but should be on the C-NLOPB's website soon.
- iii. Update on Encana's Undergarment Study: please see number 7 above for update.
- iv. Tour of helicopter simulator: as noted above, there is a lot of training currently ongoing at Lafayette (which takes priority). Ray has requested a quote from Sikorsky on the costs associated with the visit. Steve will acquire quote.
- v. Use of SkyRouter on installations: this will be discussed at the next Helicopter Steering Committee meeting.
- vi. Evaluation of OHSI implementation: Recommendation 20 was reviewed and completed. As noted above, Recommendations 25 and 26 will be reviewed next.
- vii. Evacuation into liferaft from S-92: Marine Institute cannot commit to anything at this time; will be reviewed in 6-12 months.
- viii. Liferaft deployment from S-92: Fred Anstey stated that there are too many variables. Marine Institute can put forward this initiative as an R&D project but it cannot be incorporated into the training at this time.
- ix. Use of EBS in HUET training: A meeting is scheduled to take place next week. Work is progressing and an update will be provided at the next meeting.
- x. PLB Research (ExxonMobil): a meeting occurred with JRCC to discuss options; results are not known at this time.
- xi. The procedure for work refusal at third party locations has been completed and is implemented at Cougar. Steve to forward to Lesley for implementation at CHC.
- xii. Request for Cougar to consider inviting HOSC to DND exercises was added to the action log.

9. New Business

- i. The C-NLOPB Safety Conference is scheduled to take place on November 13 at the Sheraton Hotel.
- ii. Wayne raised the question about how to make the HOSC more visible to offshore workers while reiterating the differentiation between the HOSC and JOSH. Ray suggested that we create some slides about the HOSC that worker representatives can present at JOSH meetings.

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- iii. John mentioned that it would be a good idea for worker representatives to remind offshore employees to be cautious and aware of helideck netting this time of year.
- iv. New rules are to be introduced in the North Sea regarding passengers with a shoulder width of 22 inches or more; these passengers will be classed as “extra broad” and will have to sit next to a similarly large helicopter window. Survitec is taking this measurement at suit fittings for statistical purposes.

10. Next Meeting

The next HOSC meeting will be scheduled for early 2015. A review of the current schedule will take place prior to booking the next. **Andrea will send a note to all for feedback.**

Dennis suggested that Robert Trask from PRNL attend the next meeting to give the committee a brief update on current projects.