

WSOG – History & Future. A summary of the Development & Worldwide use of Well-Specific Operating Guidelines

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Abstract

This paper discusses the issue of operational limit setting used in DP operations. It traces the history of the WSOG (Well Specific Operating Guidelines) since 1998. The paper also examines the reasons behind its widespread use in DP drilling & other operations. Modern WSOG in the form we are familiar has its origins with the Ocean Alliance campaign in the late 90's on the Nyk High, Vema Dome and Helland Hansen prospects in the Norwegian Sea.

The WSOG principle was further developed during the commissioning of the drillship West Navion between 1998-2000. WSOG became a cornerstone of the Statoil DP work requirements document, which became the principle Corporate DP requirement document, TR1029 in 2000. Since then, a number of other major Operators have introduced corporate DP requirements, all of which contain WSOG as the chosen regime for limit setting offshore. This paper discusses the European approach to deepwater drilling risk management in terms of limit settings. The paper also discusses 2 incidents. The first where WSOG worked as intended, and one where WSOG failed in its objectives. A comparison is undertaken.

The paper concludes with a summary of the reasons WSOG has had such widespread use, its benefits and introduces challenges to the industry to ensure its continued effective use. The presentation at MTS in October 2006 will also include a survey among the attendees in the auditorium. The author will pose a number of pointed questions to the audience in an attempt to generate immediate feedback into the use of WSOG. This survey will provide the MTS DP committee with valuable insight into whether the existing WSOG process does indeed hold worldwide appeal to the industry.

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