

IMCA Safety Flash 23/20

August 2020

These flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing wider dissemination of lessons learnt from them. The information below has been provided in good faith by members and should be reviewed individually by recipients, who will determine its relevance to their own operations.

The effectiveness of the IMCA safety flash system depends on receiving reports from members in order to pass on information and avoid repeat incidents. Please consider adding the IMCA secretariat (imca@imca-int.com) to your internal distribution list for safety alerts and/or manually submitting information on specific incidents you consider may be relevant. All information will be anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate.

A number of other organisations issue safety flashes and similar documents which may be of interest to IMCA members. Where these are particularly relevant, these may be summarised or highlighted here. Links to known relevant websites are provided at www.imca-int.com/links. Additional links should be submitted to info@imca-int.com

Any actions, lessons learnt, recommendations and suggestions in IMCA safety flashes are generated by the submitting organisation. IMCA safety flashes provide, in good faith, safety information for the benefit of members and do not necessarily constitute IMCA guidance, nor represent the official view of the Association or its members.

1 Safety performance in the offshore renewable energy industry

The UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has written to a number of trade bodies representing the offshore renewable energy industry, including IMCA, expressing concern *“that in some sectors of the wind energy industry, improvements in health and safety performance has at best stalled if not reversed. In 2020, there have been a number of serious incidents both in the UK and elsewhere which could indicate that any reversal may continue.”*



IMCA agrees that there is a renewed need to ensure that all organisations and individuals provide the necessary leadership to ensure health and safety remains a priority in the offshore renewable energy industry.

Actions

The HSE seeks to encourage companies operating in the offshore renewable energy industry to ensure that:

- ◆ *“Work equipment subject to statutory inspection regimes is in a safe condition and arrangements are in place to ensure all inspections are now being carried out;*
- ◆ *Arrangements are in place to ensure new entrants into the industry are provided with suitable information, instruction, training and supervision to ensure they work safely;*
- ◆ *During this period where social distancing measures are required and thereafter, suitable arrangements for monitoring and auditing performance are provided;*

- ◆ *Well publicised cost-reductions or other pressures do not lead to compromises in health and safety. In particular work is planned to ensure that revised deadlines are realistically achievable in practice and do not lead to work being conducted in poor weather or environmental conditions;*
- ◆ *Emergency response arrangements are provided, fully and regularly tested with lessons learnt incorporated;*
- ◆ *Arrangements are in place to monitor factors including fatigue and personal circumstances to ensure individual well-being; and*
- ◆ *Incidents, cases of ill-health, dangerous occurrences and safety observations are properly reported, investigated and where necessary steps taken to prevent recurrence.”*

The full text of the letter from Trevor Johnson, HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety, can be found [here](#).

IMCA works closely with the offshore renewable energy industry and with the trade bodies representing that industry, to share safety incidents, learnings, and actions.

IMCA Safety Flashes are available for all and the incident database is fully searchable. Please feel free to review incidents shared by our members on the following topics relating to the offshore renewable energy industry:

- ◆ [Crew transfer vessels](#)
- ◆ [Wind farms](#)
- ◆ [Turbine towers](#)
- ◆ [Workboats](#)

2 Use of face masks designated KN95

The UK HSE (Health and Safety Executive) has issued the following notice regarding the use of face masks designated KN95. The full notice can be found here:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/use-of-face-masks-designated-kn95.htm>

A substantial number of face masks, claiming to be of KN95 standards, provide an inadequate level of protection and are likely to be poor quality products accompanied by fake or fraudulent paperwork. These face masks may also be known as filtering face-piece respirators.



KN95 is a performance rating under the Chinese standard GB2626:2006, the requirements of which are broadly the same as the European standard BSEN149:2001+A1:2009 for FFP2 facemasks. However, there is no independent certification or assurance of their quality and products manufactured to KN95 rating are declared as compliant by the manufacturer.

Action

Members may wish to make careful checks with regards to the provenance of locally sourced surgical standard masks.