

Andy Goldsmith
International Marine Contracts Association
52 Grosvenor Gardens
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Reference
HSE Letter 20200710

Date 10th July 2020

Dear Andy
HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974

The UK governments are moving into the next stages of their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. As work activity increases and following a review of recent RIDDORs and data from the various industry bodies, I have concluded 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. This would be unacceptable. I know that your organisation and your members state your commitment to improve health and safety, however there is a renewed need to ensure that all organisations and individuals provide the necessary leadership to ensure health and safety remains an industry priority.

HSE plan to restart proactive site inspections at offshore and onshore wind farms. These inspections will allow HSE to determine if the industry is COVID-19 compliant; performance was not compromised during the pandemic; and arrangements to manage health and safety are provided. While we will continue to consider the holistic approach to health and safety; we will specifically consider the following:

- 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.

Energy Division

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Head of Unit
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I would be obliged if you could forward this letter to your members. If you or any of your members wish to discuss the content of this letter further than please contact me. I would ask you to respond, on behalf of your members by 3rd August 2020 indicating the steps that will be taken to deliver health and safety improvements.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Trevor Johnson
HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety