2021 Safety Statistics

July 2022
We are the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA), a leading trade association representing the vast majority of contractors and the associated supply chain in the offshore marine construction industry worldwide.

Our Members play a key role in the offshore oil & gas and renewable energy industries. Principally, this is through the engineering, procurement, construction, and installation of offshore wind farms and hydrocarbon production facilities, together with the ongoing life of field support and maintenance requirements of these assets.

IMCA is fully engaged in the energy transition for a sustainable and low carbon future. We play an important role in collaborating with our Members and other stakeholders in addressing the challenges of climate change, and in ensuring environmental sustainability, particularly in the context of our ocean resources.

IMCA was formed in 1995 through the merger of the Association of Offshore Diving Contractors (AODC) established in 1972, and the Dynamically Positioned Vessel Owners Association (DPVOA) established in 1989. Consequently, our operational roots and technical credentials are second to none in our industry.

We use our strong technical and safety focus to develop comprehensive best practice and operating standards for the industry to improve its performance.

We are the leading voice for the offshore marine contracting industry.

IMCA produces an annual report of safety statistics (covering injuries, fatalities, and reporting activity) as supplied by contractor members.

The report provides insight to the safety performance of IMCA contractor members, facilitating benchmarking of performance.

This short summary provides a quick snapshot of IMCA safety statistics for 2021. This information is also available to IMCA members on our website.

This summary focuses on a few important areas including injury rates, fatalities and other key indicators.

If you have any questions about the report or summary, how the insights are drawn or how to be involved in future, please do contact me.

I'll be happy to help.

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2021 Safety Statistics – An overview

Introduction
IMCA has produced an annual report of safety statistics supplied by contractor members since 1996. Safety statistics remain a useful insight into the performance of a company and industry sector. The purpose of these statistics is to record the safety performance of IMCA contractor members each year and to enable IMCA members to benchmark their performance against other companies of similar size.

Who took part?
For several years now we have offered members an on-line registration portal to submit their data. This an easier and more straightforward process than the previous manual process.
125 contractors took part in the exercise this year. They reported incidents over 549 million man-hours of work.

Fatalities
IMCA members reported 16 fatalities in 2021. This is unfortunate and this higher than average number of fatalities includes two vessels that sank in heavy weather.

One was the liftboat Seacor Power which sank in a storm in the Gulf of Mexico with the loss of 13 lives, and the other was a barge which sank in Cyclone Tauktee offshore India.

Sumary
This year’s data reveals no significant change in lost time injury rates. However, recordable injuries have worsened; a similar effect is seen across the energy industry. With LTIs relatively flat, there has been an increase in medical treatments. Trends seen during the pandemic, such as shortened attention span, fatigue, less effective training etc – have been well commented on. Line of fire remains the most common cause of LTIs.

Injuries
Total LTIFR has worsened slightly since last year (0.35 from 0.31 last year). Recordable injuries have worsened (1.36 from 1.09 last year).

Our people getting caught “in the line of fire” remains the most common cause amongst the 177 LTIs reported. Slips and trips remain the second most common cause.

Safety reporting
There has been continued increase of the leading indicator we call “Safety Observation Frequency Rate”. This is a measure of the number of safety reports made by a members’ employees and we believe that it is an indicator of a healthy safety culture at a company. It should rise year on year.

Company bands
We continue to categorize contributing members into four bands according to the amount of man-hours reported – that is, according to the size of the company. This allows peer group comparison and benchmarking between companies of similar size.

The six causes we use are:
- Dropped objects
- Slips and trips
- Falls from height
- Muscle stress
- Line of fire
- Stored energy release

Band man-hours
- A >10 million - more than 5000 employees
- B 5-10 million - between 2500 and 5000 employees
- C 1-5 million - between 500 and 2500 employees
- D <1 million - fewer than 500 employees-10 million

*An office worker might work 1700 hrs per year. Offshore crew work over 2000 hrs per year, assuming they spend 50% of their time offshore and work 12 hrs shifts. Take a broad figure of 2000 man-hrs per year for ease of arithmetic as much as anything else.
2021 At a Glance

549
Million man-hours
Total
(2020: 651)

285
Million man-hours
Offshore
(2020: 299)

410
Safety Observation Frequency Rate
(2020: 393)

16
Fatalitys reported
(2020: 2)

Line of fire
Most common cause of LTIs

0.35
LTIFR
Total LTIFR
(2020: 0.31)

0.50
Offshore LTIFR
(2020: 0.50)

1.36
TRIR
Total TRIR
(2020: 1.09)

2.01
Offshore TRIR
(2020: 1.70)

2.92
FAR
Total FAR
(2020: 0.31)

5.62
Offshore FAR
(2020: 0.39)

IMCA safety data is available on-line at: www.imca-int.com/data/safety
Comparison with other Associations

Total Recordable Injury Rate 2005-2021

- Total recordable injury rate (TRIR) - the number of recordable injuries (including fatalities and LTIs) per million hours worked.

Fatal Accident Rate

- Fatal accident rate (FAR) - the number of fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR)

- Lost time injury frequency rate (LTIFR) - the number of LTIs (including fatalities) per million hours worked.
Main causes of LTIs in 2021

- **Line Of Fire**: 53% (2020: 42%)
- **Muscle stress**: 9% (2020: 10%)
- **Stored energy release**: 3% (2020: 8%)
- **Falls from height**: 6% (2020: 9%)
- **Slips and trips**: 26% (2020: 23%)
- **Dropped objects**: 3% (2020: 8%)

Observations v Recordables

- Safety Observation Frequency Rate (SOFR) - the number of safety observations per 200,000 hours worked
- Total Recordable Injury Rate (TRIR) - the number of recordable injuries (including fatalities and LTIs) per million hours worked

Safety Flashes and the IOGP LSR

- **Top four categories of IOGP LSR**
  - 39% Line of fire
  - 36% Bypassing Safety Controls
  - 12% Safe Mechanical Lifting
  - 5% Energy Isolation

Company banding 2021

- Band D < 1 million hours worked, 5% of total hours, 9% of LTIs
- Band C 1-5 million hours worked, 16% of total hours, 24% of LTIs
- Band B 5-10 million hours worked, 15% of total hours, 15% of LTIs
- Band A > 10 million hours worked, 64% of total hours, 53% of LTIs

*Safety observation frequency rate (SOFR) - the number of safety observations per 200,000 hours worked.
*Total recordable injuries rate (TRIR) - the number of recordable injuries (including fatalities and LTIs) per million hours worked.
**Definitions**

- **Total company hours** – hours worked by employees across the entire organisation, including overtime.
- **Offshore hours** – hours worked on vessels, barges, boats or any other offshore structures or installations, based on a 12-hour day.
- **Lost time injury frequency rate (LTIFR)** – the number of LTIs (including fatalities) per million hours worked.
- **Total recordable injuries rate (TRIR)** – the number of recordable injuries (including fatalities and LTIs) per million hours worked.
- **Safety observations frequency rate (SOFR)** – the number of safety observations per 200,000 hours worked.
- **Fatal accident rate (FAR)** – the number of fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

Data for 1997-2017 was separated into offshore/onshore categories, with an ‘overall’ combining the two. From 2018, data is collected and reported as offshore/total, with the historical ‘overall’ figure used for comparison.
Improving performance in the marine contracting industry

To find out more on Safety Statistics and reporting visiting our website www.imca-int.com

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