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**To all Offshore Duty Holders/Vessel/MODU Operators:**

**01 April 2025**

**Helideck Crew & Helicopter Operations Staff Competency**

Recent discussions at the Helicopter Management Liaison Committee (HMLC) highlighted an assumption by the UK offshore AOC holding helicopter operators that all offshore helideck crew (Helideck Landing Officers and Helideck Assistants) along with the helicopter operations support staff (Heli-Admin and Baggage Searchers) were trained and regularly competency assessed.

CAP437 – Standards for offshore helicopter landings areas Appendix K states that Heli-Admin staff should be trained and competent as does Chapter 8.3 for offshore refuellers. However, there is no statement referring to competence of the helideck crew.

All offshore helideck crew operating in the UKCS must be trained i.a.w. OPITO standards commencing with HOIT, for both HLO and HDA duties as well as HERTL & HERTM. The HOIT training clearly states:

The Duty Holder must ensure that, apart from the provision of onshore training:

a) Workplace training is provided, and **workplace competence assessment is conducted**.

However there appears to be a breakdown when it comes to workplace competency assessments in that there is no consistent approach by offshore operators/Duty Holders.

Helicopter operators rightly understand that when one of their aircraft lands on a helideck there is an assumption by the crew that all helideck staff are trained and competent in being able to turn that aircraft round safely. This assumption is supported by the UK CAA and a statement to that effect will be included in the next revision of CAP437 reflecting this. However, in the meantime, offshore asset operators should ensure that the required assessments are carried out, either by internal or external resources, to ensure all personnel meet the workplace competency requirements in line with the OPITO Helideck Crew Workplace Competency framework.

At the request of the helicopter operators, from 1 May 2025, HCA will now include, in both the biennial inspection and the interim self-assessment, a request for evidence that all helideck crew & heli-admin staff have been competency assessed. Any offshore asset unable to provide evidence will have a 30-day action finding levelled against it to address the issue. Individuals deemed “not yet competent”, or an asset failing to have individuals assessed, shall remove the individual from active deck crew/helicopter operational duties until deemed “competent”.

Regards

For and behalf of HCA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham Wildgoose', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Wildgoose  
**Technical Director**