

Topic 1: HUEBA

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Helicopter Underwater Emergency Breathing Apparatus (HUEBA) Implementation Plan

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Introduction

This Helicopter Underwater Emergency Breathing Apparatus (HUEBA) Implementation Plan has been compiled to facilitate the introduction of a compressed air HUEBA device for use by petroleum industry personnel travelling by helicopter to installations in the Atlantic Canadian offshore.

This Implementation Plan contains tools and information that can be used by operators in communication with workforce personnel and industry stakeholders throughout the implementation of the HUEBA. Some documents, such as the Frequently Asked Questions, may evolve over time in the event new questions are identified through the implementation process.

The intent of this implementation plan is to assist operators to approach the implementation of HUEBA consistently within the Atlantic Canadian basin and to allow use of the device to commence at the most appropriate time.

The following sections provide detail regarding the training plan and communications plan.

Implementation Plan

- Upon approval of the implementation of the HUEBA by the CAPP Executive Policy Group, and approval by the CAPP Training and Qualifications Committee for the changes in safety training course content, training organizations (Marine Institute (OSSC) and Survival Systems Training Ltd.) will be directed to implement training on the HUEBA.
- Offshore workforce personnel will be advised of the in-water training plan devised by their employer.
- Operators will define a date on which the HUEBA will be included as part of the safety equipment carried by all offshore workforce on all offshore flights.
- Training at the heliports onshore and offshore will commence on the date that the HUEBA is added to the safety equipment carried by the workforce.
- Implementation timing will follow the process outlined below (under *Timing of Implementation*)
- Implementation in Nova Scotia (NS) has preceded implementation in Newfoundland (NL). Lessons learned with implementation in NS will be shared without delay.
- The majority of the offshore workforce will be provided with an opportunity for training in-water prior to carrying the HUEBA on their suits however, the implementation of the HUEBA

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is such that there likely will be a some workforce personnel who will be travelling prior to having received in-water training.

- Visitors, workforce personnel arriving from other jurisdictions and ad hoc vendors will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in relation to the exemption process (defined below).

Timing of Implementation

- A date will be identified by operators on which in-water training will be available to workforce personnel
- A second date will be identified by operators on which the HUEBA will become required safety equipment carried by all workforce personnel on all offshore flights
- A third date will be identified by operators after which all workforce personnel will require in-water training prior to flights with HUEBA

The HUEBA has been introduced in the offshore NS basin. As commenced on April 27, 2009, all flights to and from ExxonMobil's NS offshore installations will include the HUEBA on the suits worn by all personnel. Any lessons learned through this NS implementation will be shared with operators in the NL basin.

Training Plan

In-water

The following in-water training will be made available prior to the date of implementation and will continue to be available on an on-going basis as follows:

- HUEBA component will be included within the basic safety courses required by all offshore workforce personnel (see below for list of courses and training content)
- HUEBA stand-alone training module will be available in NS and NL

Pre-flight Safety Video

- A perpetual HUEBA component will be added to the pre-flight safety videos shown to all personnel prior to all flights (onshore and offshore)

Implementation Phase

Duration of the *implementation phase* will be determined by operators and is dependent upon workforce rotation and in-water training schedules:

- Demonstration of the HUEBA at the heliports by a trained representative (onshore and offshore)
- Provisions to allow personnel to try breathing through a regulator in air at the heliport (onshore)

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Components of HUEBA Training (Training Protocol)

HUEBA Training Video

A HUEBA video component will be added to the pre-flight safety videos currently shown before each flight onshore and offshore. The HUEBA component will show the user:

- how to locate the HUEBA
- how to purge HUEBA (in air and in water)
- the sequence of deployment in an emergency situation
- to maintain continuous breathing while surfacing
- how to read the gauge and conduct a visual inspection (the video will demonstrate purging the HUEBA and outline and any cautions in handling the device).

Mandatory HUEBA Training Module Included in Existing Offshore Safety Training Courses and Offered as a Stand-Alone HUEBA Module

HUEBA training will be added to the following basic safety courses currently required of all offshore personnel:

- Basic Survival Training (BST)
- Basic Survival Training – Recurrent (BST-R)
- Offshore Survival Introduction (OSI)
- Offshore Helicopter Safety (OHS)

The composition of the module (both stand alone and as a module in another course) will include one hour of classroom lecture and shallow water¹ pool exercises (approx 3 hours). The HUEBA training is designed to provide the trainee with the following competencies:

- describe the physics of HUEBA operation
- describe the characteristics of HUEBA equipment
- understand HUEBA clearing operations
- demonstrate the practical use of a HUEBA (progression from dry familiarization through to shallow water inverted/submerged use of device) while wearing survival suit (use of chair technology that allows use of a four-point harness)

Standard for HUEBA Training

The HUEBA training content will be in accordance with CAPP *Standard Practice for the Training and Qualification of Personnel*.

¹ The HUEBA Review Team (consisting of operator and regulator representatives) recommended in December 2008 that training on the compressed air HUEBA occur at the pool surface. Training establishments have devised a chair that will provide inverted and submerged in-water training while wearing a survival suit and strapped into a 4-point harness. The intent is to maintain the lungs (thorax) at surface depth while providing a full training experience. Operator representatives have assessed this training and support it.