

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

*Alan*  
2100 Second Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20593-0001  
Staff Symbol: CG-5  
Phone: (202) 372-1001  
Fax: (202) 372-2900

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JUL 16 2009

Dr. A. Lee Hunt  
President  
International Association of Drilling Contractors  
P. O. Box 4287  
Houston, TX 77210-4287

Dear Dr. Hunt:

Thank you for your letter on Safety of Lifting Operations of 19 May, 2009, which you sent in reply to the joint Coast Guard & Minerals Management Service (MMS) letter dated April 22, 2009. We received similar informative feedback in letters from both the American Petroleum Institute and the Offshore Operators Committee, dated May 8 and May 15<sup>th</sup> respectively. The level of detail provided in all letters demonstrates considerable efforts taken in the last decade toward improving the safety of crane lifting activities on the Outer Continental Shelf. We applaud the industry efforts while also acknowledging that work remains to be done to ensure that accident rates continue to trend downward.

I appreciate your offer to meet with the Coast Guard and MMS to discuss plans for continuing efforts in improving the safety of offshore lifting operations. Mr. Ken Smith on the Vessel and Facility Operating Standards staff at Coast Guard Headquarters has been assigned as the Coast Guard representative and will participate in crane safety related discussions and forums.

We have actively participated in crane safety forums and conferences in the past and will continue to support all ongoing efforts to analyze data and work with you and other interested parties to determine the best strategies for improving lifting operations and updating Coast Guard regulations and policy as necessary. We also look to our National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) and other agency partnerships to help provide suggestions on ways that we may improve safety, develop updated regulations, and help ensure safer offshore lifting operations.

I look forward to receiving feedback from our Designated Federal Officer to NOSAC, CDR Pat Clark, and Mr. Ken Smith on their return from the API Crane Lifting conference they recently attended in Houston, TX.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian M. Salerno".

BRIAN M. SALERNO  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and  
Stewardship

Copy: Mr. Chris C. Oynes, Associate Director for Offshore Energy and Management, MMS