

Brasoil Angola becomes first contractor certified for SMS

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BRASOIL ANGOLA HAS become the first drilling contractor in the world to be awarded with the certificate for its Safety Management System (SMS) as according to the regulations of ISM code.

The observance to this code will be mandatory for all self-propelled MODUs (Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit) as of 2002.



Brasoil Angola scores first: In 1997, Brasoil Angola became the world's first drilling contractor to be certified for its Safety Management System under the IMO's ISM Code. Compliance with the ISM Code will be mandatory for all self-propelled MODUs in 2002. Above is Brasoil's semisubmersible Petrobras XVI.

The global fleet of self-propelled drilling units is increasing due to the increasing market for dynamic-position units. Companies that operate such equipment will have to develop or adapt their SMS to comply with this code.

This article discusses the main steps taken by Brasoil Angola to obtain this certificate. We will also describe the main advantages earned by our company, its cus-

tomers and its employees with the application of our SMS.

ABOUT BRASOIL ANGOLA

Brasoil Angola is a subsidiary of **Braspetro-Petrobras Internacional S.A.**, which is the international arm of Brazil's state-owned oil company. The company works in the upstream segment, rendering services for drilling and well completion.

Brasoil Angola is responsible for all the drilling platforms outside Brazil and is at the moment, operating the semi-submersible Petrobras XVI and the Jack up Petrobras XI. The company's head office is in Luanda, capital of Angola, where it holds an important offshore oil producer market.

The company has 256 employees, 116 expatriates and 140 nationals to perform the work. Chevron, Texaco, Elf, Sonanogal P&P, Shell and Ranger Oil are among Brasoil Angola's top customers. The company's annual revenue for 1998 is estimated at US\$ 35,000,000.00.

WHY A SMS?

Why did Brasoil Angola adopt a Safety Management System?

The company's high-risk activity involves people, its assets and the environment. This alone justifies the company's constant concern in improving its performance in Safety

Since 1988, after the Piper Alpha accident, in the North Sea, the industry (customers and contractors) has been developing new technology in order to reduce the risk related to its operation.

Brasoil Angola stays abreast of industry trends, especially in regard to safety. The company analyzed all options and decided to implement a Safety Management System based on the ISM Code. This

choice was based on the following premises:

- It is a code designed to meet with offshore operational requirements;
- It has international acceptance;
- It is based on the same criteria as the ISO 9000 standards.

WHAT IS THE ISM CODE?

The **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** exists under the auspices of the **United Nations**. IMO was formed following the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

In resolution No A.741 (18) of November 1993, IMO adopted the International Safety Management (ISM) Code. Later, this code became part of Chapter IX of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention.

The main objectives of the ISM Code are to guarantee safety at sea, prevent personal accidents or loss of lives and avoid damage to the environment, especially the marine environment, as well as to assets.

The ISM Code requires:

- Company policies and objectives for safety and environment protection;
- Commitment of top management;
- Compliance with all rules and regulations by the company and its vessels;
- Procedures and instructions which guarantee a safe operation onboard and the protection of the environment;
- Assignment of responsibilities and authority onshore and offshore;
- Procedures to report, investigate and deal with accidents and non conformities;
- Procedures for preparedness and response to any emergency;
- Procedures for internal auditing and system reviews;
- Establishment of safe-guards against all identified risks;

IMPLEMENTING THE SMS

The company decided to use consultants to carry out the implementation process. Should the company have chosen to implant the system with its own resources, it would be subject to a long-term implementation process, not to mention the

possible team's lack of motivation toward the program. After having analyzed the pros and cons, the company has decided not to bear such a risk.

The help received from Brasoil's customers was fundamental and made the company's job easier. This help came from opinions given on which activities should be standardized, as well as suggestions on the procedures which the customers considered more suitable for each job.

The company hired 95 days of consultancy and the implementation of the system was concluded in 20 months.

Next, we shall present the activities involved in the implementation of the System in detail:

DIAGNOSIS REPORT

An initial audit was carried out in the company and in the operational units in order to compare the current situation against the code's requirements.

HSE POLICY

The full commitment of the top manage-



Petrobras XI: In 1997, the jackup Petrobras XI became the first in the world to be certified for its SMS.

ment in regards to Safety, Health and the Environment was presented to the company, its customers and the general public. From that moment onward there was no other option, every employee had to adopt the program.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

An informal structure was created in the company's organizational chart for the duration of the SMS implementation. This structure consisted of the program's coordinator and 1 local coordinator on each rig. They were responsible for keeping the team motivated and making the System come true.

This informal structure later became the SMS Committee, which is a formal structure defined by the System as responsible for:

- Managing the SMS documentation system;
- Defining the plan for internal audits;
- Analyzing the SMS for the company as a whole;
- Coordinating the onshore resources during eventual emergency situations on the rigs.

ELABORATING PROCEDURES

After defining which documents should be elaborated, the tasks were divided within the company and an action plan

for the elaboration of the procedures was issued and followed by all coordinators. Each document draft has been commented on by those in charge of the tasks, thus giving consistency to the system.

TRAINING PROGRAM

In this period, Brasoil has put a total of 63 men through a course in safety management and 393 men through a course in safety procedures and health.

Another training effort was the release of each procedure/instruction to the employees responsible for each task.

FINAL EVALUATION

After consolidating the process, Brasoil Angola's safety management system was submitted to a third party audit in regard to the ISM Code and awarded with the Document of Compliance.

After that, each rig was also submitted to an audit in order to check whether the SMS was really implemented, understood and complied with by all the crew members. Each unit received its "Safety Management Certificate".

RESULTS

Brasoil Angola has experienced many positive results since implementing the SMS:

- Control and reduction of frequency and seriousness of accidents: Brasoil Angola's Lost Time Incidence Rate (accidents per 200,000 manhours) has decreased to 0.62. The comparable IADC statistic is 0.69;
- Standardization of the company's routine;
- Improvement of personnel skills;
- Increased personnel motivation;
- Improved marketing conditions for the development of new business ventures;
- Recognition by our customers of a differentiated Management Safety system.

CUSTOMER EVALUATIONS

Next, we will present some phrases extracted from recent evaluation forms filled out by our customers:

- They have one of the best safety orientations;

- In the last 12 months with the lead-up to ISM certification, all operations such as, safety, health & operational procedures have improved;

- Overall the equipment and crews do an above average job for a rig in a remote location;

- Very good awareness and trained multi-national crews;

- Generally hard working, personnel who try very hard to get the job performed efficiently and safely;

- L'efficacité et la compétence technique de vos équipes ont contribué à succès. (Efficiency and competency with your equipment contributed to success.)

- Our special thanks to all the personnel of Brasoil involved with the operation of Petrobras XI. The performance of the rig and its personnel was excellent and greatly appreciated. The biggest thanks to all involved in completing the project with no LTAs. Given the man-hours involved, this is a major accomplishment.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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