

IADC's training, accreditation programs expand, two new programs introduced

IADC ROLLED OUT two new high profile accreditation programs this year as part of its ongoing efforts to meet the needs of the industry. The new programs are WellCAP Plus and Ballast Control and Stability accreditation and certification programs.

The accreditation and certification staff, headed by **Steve Kropla**, has been increased in order to handle the anticipated growth around the world.



Steve Kropla

Accreditation activities are now operated from two locations, the Netherlands and Houston. The accreditation staff includes people who are multilingual in Spanish and Chinese to assist with the number of training providers in Latin America and in China as well as occasional visitors from those regions.

WELLCAP BOP KILL SHEET

The Well Control department is developing a WellCAP standardized kill sheet under a Subcommittee chaired by **Ed Geissler** of **Nabors International Drilling**.

Drafts have been written and sent out for comments, which were received earlier, and a second draft has subsequently been distributed. The initial distribution was to the Well Control Committee. The second draft was distributed in late July as part of a pilot test of a new electronic document distribution and review system. It is anticipated that several versions of the kill sheet will be available, which will be an ongoing process. The first set is expected to be completed and available by the end of 2005.

COILED TUBING

The existing coiled tubing curriculum is in the process of being revised and updated at both the basic and supervisory levels in order to include the latest CT technology. The CT curriculum is expected to be completed and available by year end. The topic will be discussed at a well control roundtable in Singapore on 10 November.

The subcommittee restructured the existing WellCAP coiled tubing curriculum to focus on realistic well control practices using coiled tubing well control equipment components.

The proposed curriculum includes a 16-hour Fundamental Level Basic Coiled Tubing Course, a 20-hour Supervisory Level Basic Coiled Tubing Course, and a 36-hour Supervisory Level Advanced Coiled Tubing Course.

BALLAST CONTROL & STABILITY

IADC has launched its newest accreditation offering for providers of marine ballast control and stability training. The system establishes training provider specifications and course curriculum guidelines based on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly Resolution A.891(21).

The system also includes an individual IADC Ballast Control Operator (BCO) Certification that combines course work with documented offshore rig performance.

The program has already been approved by the flag states of the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu. Additionally, IADC is in the process of seeking US Coast Guard approval as a Quality Standards System (QSS) organization, which would enable IADC to provide accredited organizations with USCG approval.

IADC will also seek approval from other flag states, including Liberia, Panama and the Bahamas.

IADC operates the program in conjunction with the international **Nautical Institute** based in London, which operates a similar training and certification system for dynamic positioning (DP) operators.

Maritime documentation specialists from the US Coast Guard and the flag states of the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu and Liberia were introduced to the program at a meeting in Arlington, Virginia last October.

The IADC presentation was conducted by Steve Kropla, Director of Accredita-

tion & Certification; **Alan Spackman**, Director of Offshore Regulatory & Technical Affairs; and **Dado Matkins** of **Transocean**, Chairman of the IADC Training Committee.

This meeting resulted in pre-launch approval of the program by Marshall Islands and Vanuatu.

The project development team consisted of Mr Matkins, **Rene Rodrigues**, **Ken Chapman** and **Jim Finlay** of Transocean; **Jeff Mashburn** and **Tom Payne** of **Diamond Offshore**; **Mike Koenig** of **Atwood Oceanics**; and **Bill Waldrop** of the **Alliance Maritime Training** division of **Randy Smith Training Solutions**.

Additional project review and guidance was provided by **Capt Dick McVeigh** and the staff of **Aberdeen Skills Enterprise Training (ASET)**, the vocational training unit of Aberdeen College in Scotland.

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RIGPASS AND SAFE GULF

Following meetings and negotiations with the four oil and gas companies involved in Safe Gulf, IADC's RIGPASS has been accepted as meeting their minimum training requirements.

One of Safe Gulf's main features will be a database system that will be used to control access to the operators' shore bases and facilities. RIGPASS cards will have a barcode for scanning at the shore base.

The database will contain photographs of the workers as well as other information. IADC is in the process of writing procedures for existing RIGPASS cards for those workers that need to comply with the Safe Gulf regulations.

The Safe Gulf database is managed by a separate company. IADC has an agreement with the company whereby IADC will provide certain portions of the RIGPASS data for use in the database. The database is scheduled to be operational by the beginning of 2006.

WELLCAP PLUS

Another program launched in 2005 was WellCAP Plus, an innovative approach to well control training that provides an alternative to the conventional methods usually used to provide Supervisory level well control instruction.

WellCAP Plus is designed for high-level experienced operations personnel. The system uses a facilitated learning system that focuses on team problem-solving and decision making.

Developed in conjunction with the Texas Engineering Extension Service of Texas

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A&M University, WellCAP Plus was funded solely by IADC and its members.

OTHER ACCREDITATION

The IADC Training Committee approved to proceed with the drilling industry accreditation program that would allow IADC recognition of types of training other than those that have specific accreditation programs.

This would essentially open accreditation for training that could include training by oil companies or drilling contractors.

One of the most frequent requests is for roughneck training, particularly training that would utilize IADC's knowledge, skills and ability (KSA) training criteria.

Other potential accreditation could include crane operator accreditation and training, helicopter underwater escape and offshore survival.

COMPETENCY ASSURANCE

IADC continues to develop a competency assurance program through its Competency Subcommittee chaired by **George Edwards** with **GlobalSantaFe**.

This subcommittee was reactivated following a period during which activities had slowed.

The subcommittee is currently developing a competency assurance accreditation system under which an organization may apply for IADC review and recognition of its internal competency assurance system.

This will invite an in-depth audit of the competency program's development, implementation, assessment and quality assurance and will be used to assure that the competency assurance programs meet accepted practices to develop and assure the skills of persons employed in safety-critical positions. ■