
HSE perspective on H&S issues facing the wind energy industry

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Safe Turbine Tower Access: Developing HSE Position (1)



- **New***, yet to be ordered, turbines:
 - Will expect lifts (or other suitable means of access).
- Turbines **already on order**, including those undergoing construction etc:
 - Accept (*with caveats*) that decision on appropriate access method will be taken on case-by-case basis using *Decision Making Framework*.
- **Existing** turbines:
 - Again case-by-case basis, but accept lift less realistic except where design could already one.

Safe Turbine Tower Access: Developing HSE Position (2)



Turbines **already on order** – caveats applying:

- HSE reserves right to explore and challenge the decision taken by operator/client/m manufacturer (whose RA might not be taken as red/final).
Starting point: If lift can be installed, then it should be.
- Where inspectors encounter turbines already designed to accommodate lift, e.g. necessary fixings, operator will have to explain why not installed and be prepared for challenge.
- HSE will continue to explore the numbers used in the Decision Making Framework/CBA which is viewed as a “living document”; expect it to be refined with experience.

Fall Arrest Equipment - BS EN 353-1: 2002 - Update



- HSE position remains unchanged
(Press Releases: 06/2004, 03/2006 and Safety Warning 10/2007).
- Research report (mentioned in 03/2006) to be published – hopefully soon.
- After publication, considering holding workshop - for a limited number of representatives of manufacturers/suppliers and major users
(March or April).

Other priority H&S issues:

- Dealing with emergencies
- Fitness for Work (and wider health issues)
- Plant accidents (turn over, loss of control, road width)
- Electrical safety
- Welfare
- Lifting operations
- Supervision

Offshore wind farms: H&S risks

- Construction & Major Repair Operations:
 - Operation of jack-up barges
 - Lifting operations
- Operation (maintenance & minor repair):
 - Access and egress to the offshore structures
 - Emergency preparedness/response
 - Working at heights (+ links to the emergency preparedness)
 - Welfare issues

Public Safety



- Turbine collapse, component shedding/blade failure, ice throw, fire, ground stability etc.
- Best addressed through planning controls as well as H&S legislation.
- Serious risk to reputation of the industry.
- Time to move it up the agenda – HSE happy to work with relevant parties to produce guidance.



HSE and the Wind Energy Industry – Working Together (1)



- Deciding good practice:
 - *We decide by consensus what is good practice through a process of discussion with stakeholders, such as employers, trade associations, other Government departments, trade unions, health and safety professionals and suppliers.*
- Don't forget:
 - Involving workers improves health and safety performance.

HSE and the Wind Energy Industry – Working Together (2)



- The industry is taking a proactive approach to safety through the BWEA - HSE will continue to support this.
- HSE is not anti-wind turbine or anti-renewables!
- Want to see a vibrant and successful wind energy generation industry.
- But want it to be a safe and healthy industry - for both **workers** and **public** – one in which risks are managed SENSIBLY.

Sensible Risk Management - Principles



- Ensuring workers and public are properly protected
- Providing overall benefit to society by balancing benefits and risks - focus on real risks
- Enabling innovation and learning not stifling them
- Ensuring those who create risks manage them responsibly - failure to do so likely to lead to robust action
- Enabling individuals to understand that as well as a right to protection, they have to exercise responsibility