

Date of Reported Meeting: Thursday 6th September 2018

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1st November 2018

Seatbelts on Piling Rigs

There was some discussion as to whether seatbelts were protecting a rig operator or whether they were preventing his/her escape during a tipping incident or a fire. No clear conclusion was reached. John Underwood at HSE was consulted and given the HSE stance on seat belts in piling rigs, he said it is up to industry if rigs should have seatbelts although he did also note if seatbelts are fitted by manufacturers then they should be worn. It was agreed FPS members report on the last five years of incidents reporting if any rigs have fallen over and state whether the operator was wearing a seatbelt or not and whether they were injured or not, with this information, an FPS policy could be based around facts.

Rod and Auger Handling

The FPS has taken the position to look at using mechanical aids on the process of automating manual handling wherever practicable. It was noted that current progress is not where it should be and that not enough progress is being made to implement and also source a solution to the issue of handling augers. It was suggested a working group is formed to push this issue forward leading to change.

Mutual Recognition of Rig Driver Qualifications

It was reported that the EFFC is looking to set up a European Rig Operator License that accredits training that meets a common minimum standard. It is expected that this can then be used as the basis for mutually recognising qualifications across borders. A meeting was held in July to discuss developing a minimum basic standard and as part of this each countries' training centres will need to be accredited under the scheme.

EN16228

It was reported that the second part of the EN16228 has been amended and redrafted by the CEN WG; the redraft proposed lowering the guard height. The standard is now up for comment, it was stated the FPS did not want the guard height to change therefore will vote against the amendment.