

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION

This Code of Practice (hereinafter referred to as the 'Code') was developed initially by Australian Offshore Services. This development was undertaken after approaches from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), which had identified a need for such a Code to consider and address the hazards and risks associated with offshore support vessel operations, and to identify those areas where additional guidance would help to secure improvements in safety.

Responses were sought from other operators and interested parties to improve the coverage and effectiveness of the final document.

This Code is issued to provide guidance to operators, managers/superintendents of offshore installations, Masters and owners of offshore support vessels, so as to avoid or reduce to a minimum the hazards which affect offshore vessels in their daily interface with both offshore and onshore installations.

This document is not intended to conflict with or replace any existing legislation, contractual obligations or guidance notes issued by regulatory bodies or trade associations. Where installation operators issue their own safety or operating procedures, it is recommended that this Code be incorporated.

This Code will be kept under review and it is intended to issue amendments from time to time as circumstances dictate.

Various overseas codes of safe management and practice have been used as a guide in the compilation of this Code. This Code reflects the particular requirements of the Australian offshore industry.

DISCLAIMER

The use of this Code does not affect the responsibility of the ship operator to operate safely and to observe statutory requirements, or of any person to exercise the normal duty of care.