

How to handle reported irregularities?

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Petroleum Safety Authority (PSA)

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PETROLEUM SAFETY AUTHORITY
NORWAY





Our area of responsibility

-  **60** rigs/units with AOC
-  **300** subsea installations
-  **8** land-based plants
-  **25 000** people
-  **15 400** km subsea pipelines
-  **83** fields in production at 1 Jan 2019





The role/competence of the authorities

- Audits and verifications
 - Section 2 A-3. Obligation to prepare procedures for internal notification in cooperation with employees
- Guidance:
 - Audits
 - indirect when we inform the companies that we will conduct an audit
 - Information on homepage (www.ptil.no)
 - By telephone & email
- Handling of notifications from employees in the petroleum industry
 - According to PSA internal guidelines

PSA handling of notifications - guidelines

- Focus on content of notification – not on person
- Receiving by e-mail, telephone, meetings
- Handled by relevant professional personnel
 - Checking facts with whistleblower, information about result
 - Communication with employer
 - Confidentiality
 - Conclusions



EXPERIENCES – NOTIFICATIONS 2018

- 25 000 workers in the petroleum industry (offshore and onshore facilities, not offices or supply bases) – less than 50 notifications per year – 2018: 40 notifications
- Who notifies/reports wrongdoing
 - Union delegates - 4
 - Safety delegates - 2
 - Workers - 11
 - Anonymous – 15
 - Others – 1 (law firm)
 - Other authorities - 7
- Issues of notifications – HSE examples
 - Organisational safety/working environment issues 24 (lack of people, lack of training/education/certificates, lack of workers' representatives' involvement)
 - Technical safety issues 10 (e.g lack of classifying of equipment, ventilation..)
 - Physical working environment 4 (e.g. chemical exposure)
 - Other 3: (Under-reporting of incidents, false diploma)
- Notifications sometimes copied to company management



Why relatively few notifications?

- One “uniform” industry – oil and gas
- The Nordic/Norwegian model
 - Tripartite working relations
 - Strong safety regulatory regime
 - Well functioning safety delegate system
 - Strong unions
- Under-reporting because of fear of retaliation/loosing contracts & own work position



PSA system

- Information/guidelines on home page
- PSA have internal guidelines developed in accordance with guidelines developed by Arbeidstilsynet/Norwegian labour Inspection
- Notifications are handled by professionals within the actual subject notified
- All notifications are investigated and the employee is informed about outcome/conclusion – breach or no breach of regulations
- Employees not always satisfied with our conclusions
- Conference 2017 in co-operation with Arbeidstilsynet on whistleblowing
- Audits
- The office of the Auditor general 2018: our handling of notifications mainly approved
- Feedback from the industry: SF 6.2.2019





Does it work?

- We handle notifications but do not follow up change of practice – unless we perform an audit
- We communicate with whistleblower on the subject of notification, give advise if necessary – but give no «social» support
- We do not intervene in the entreprise's internal processes – no investigation of possible retaliation – «private issue»

PSA - Result of project

- Established information on our website
 - <http://www.ptil.no/notification-of-censurable-conditions/category1346.html>
- Started development of safe system for notifying to PSA, including anonymity
- Extend internal learning program
 - Strengthen competence
 - Increase attention
- Gap analysis internal and common guidelines





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