

Submersible Operations Group (SOG) Members Charter

Introduction

The Submersible Operations Group (SOG) is dedicated to enhancing the safety, performance, and sustainability of the submersible operating industry globally.

This Charter outlines the commitments and objectives each member agrees to uphold as part of their membership in the SOG.

Objectives

Our primary objective is to improve safety standards and ensure the following for all submersible operations globally:

- To be the global reference for developing all forms of submersible operators.
- To advocate that all SOG members operate within a standard framework of operational regulations and develop a Safety and Environmental Case Report (SECR).

Mission Statement

The SOG aims to improve the performance and sustainability of the submersible operating industry through collaborative efforts, standardised operational protocols, knowledge sharing, and advocacy for best practices.

Purpose

The purpose of the SOG is to enable the development of the world's submersible operating resources in a safe and sustainable manner.

There is a specific focus on:

- Implementing standardised operational protocols across the SOG.
- Each member of the SOG maintaining a “live” SECR.

We will achieve this by:

1. **Standardisation and Common Interests:**
 - o Fostering collaboration and promoting areas of standardisation in operations and common interest relating to SECR maintenance.
2. **Technical Guidance:**
 - o Developing and publishing technical and standardised operational guidance that will serve as a global reference for the development of submersible operators who can meet the stringent safety and environmental requirements outlined in a SECR, or who wish to develop and commit to progressing towards having all components of a SECR in place for their organisation.
3. **Knowledge Dissemination:**

- o Hosting conferences, seminars, and workshops to facilitate the exchange of best practices, innovative technologies, and industry insights among our members, with a particular emphasis on standard operational protocols and SECR requirements.
- 4. **Advocacy and Representation:**
 - o Representing our members in dialogue with other industry bodies, regulatory authorities, and submersible operating companies to ensure their interests and concerns related to standardised operational protocols and SECR implementation are addressed effectively.
- 5. **Guidance on Design, Construction, and Certification:**
 - o Providing guidance on the design, construction, and certification of submersibles, including safety certificates and class approvals.
- 6. **Regulatory Compliance:**
 - o Ensuring robust auditing and governance to implement effective Safety and Environmental Management Systems for all submersible operations.
- 7. **Training and Competence:**
 - o Providing guidance on effective training and verification of competence for all personnel involved in submersible operations.
- 8. **Supporting Vessels and Equipment:**
 - o Providing guidance on the suitability of supporting vessels, platforms, and equipment for safe submersible launches, recoveries, and support.
- 9. **Operational Safety:**
 - o Providing guidance on the provision of appropriate plant and equipment for conducting submersible operations safely, including effective communication and tracking systems, as well as emergency response capabilities.
- 10. **Planning and Documentation:**
 - o Implementing effective planning, including operational control documentation such as Ops Manuals, SOPs, EOPs, Risk Assessments, guidance documents, and safety alerts.
- 11. **Contingency and Emergency Plans:**
 - o Developing comprehensive contingency and emergency plans.

Strengths

- **Technical Expertise:**
 - o We possess a well-respected and strong technical background, making the SOG a reliable source of industry guidance and best practices, particularly in operations and SECR compliance.
- **Networking:**
 - o Our extensive network of committees, industry experts, and stakeholders will allow us to facilitate meaningful connections and collaborations within the submersible operating industry.
- **Advocacy:**
 - o We will be advocates for the interests of our members and the broader industry, fostering dialogue and positive change.
- **Communication Platform:**

- o We will serve as a platform for communication and information exchange among our members, ensuring that the latest industry developments and knowledge are readily accessible.

Impact and Influence

The work of the SOG will have a profound impact on the industry by improving performance, standardising operational protocols and procedures, sustainability, and Safety and Environmental compliance.

By publishing technical and operational guidance, we will become a trusted source for submersible operating companies worldwide. This will position us as a high-profile influencer in the industry, facilitating continuous improvement and safety.

Member Commitment

As a member of the Submersible Operations Group, I commit to upholding the objectives and principles outlined in this Charter, maintaining a “live” SECR, actively participating in SOG initiatives, and working collaboratively with fellow members to advance the submersible operating industry.