

Compliance assessment at the click of a button – what could be easier?

Keeping your people safe and your reputation intact is a top priority for offshore organisations - here's a three-point solution for a compliance-ready crew

LONDON, UK, October 17, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Five years after the Deepwater Horizon disaster, BP was ordered to pay more than \$20billion in criminal and civil penalties and clean-up costs making the settlement the largest in corporate America. The tragedy was a critical driver in transforming the industry's approach to safety and massively impacted how subsequent audits of offshore oil and gas operations are conducted.

In the aftermath of Deepwater Horizon, new regulation such as the Safety and Environmental Management System (SEMS) standard was also introduced. Aimed primarily at operators in the Outer Continental Shelf, SEMS comprises 17 elements that companies must address during the design, construction, start-up, operation, inspection and maintenance of all new and existing facilities. Furthermore, it stipulates that companies must have audits carried out every three years by independent audit service providers certified by the Center for Offshore Safety rather than conduct these audits themselves.

Other industries have been quick to follow suit and take on board SEMS. The Civil Aviation Authority and Department of Transport have jointly published guidelines for the aviation sector.

So why is this relevant to workforce management? Quite simply, the size and complexity of engineering projects in the offshore industry necessitate multiple contractors and teams of people located in all corners of the world. How do you bring them all together and ensure they have the right skills and licenses for following and meeting important safety requirements for SEMS as well as other Health and Safety legislation?

Here is a three-point plan to get you started:

1. Embrace automation - while spreadsheets might be a great tool at an individual level, they are static and limited in terms of scalability. Spreadsheets give everyone their own version of the truth, with complete autonomy to update and amend them as often as they like, without interference from anyone else. Too many organizations waste time, effort and money by trying to reconcile documents and systems that hold inaccurate information. It's time to ditch those spreadsheets and embrace automation to develop, build and maintain an effective and safe workforce. Modern integrated workforce management (WFM) systems bring together every single piece of information you'll ever need – in minutes. A centralized repository of real-time data gives a complete picture of crew members and activities affecting compliance – their skills and training competencies as well as important travel documentation such as certificates, medicals, passports and visas. Gaps in skills and certification are quickly identified and remedied to minimize the risk of non-compliance.

2. Maintain an integrated skills matrix - a skills matrix gives a clear picture of crew competencies, skills, qualifications and training history, managers are able to ensure staff maintain a sufficient level of expertise and are equipped with the relevant new training to deal with a rapidly changing industry,

technology and regulatory environment.

3. Introduce a culture that thrives on change and plans for the future - with essential skills information at your fingertips, it becomes easier for staff to stay up-to-date with changes in your own business and an evolving regulatory landscape. Make the most of data held in your system to take a current and historic look at existing personnel skills, identify skills gaps and develop tailored training packages in a timely manner.

When it comes to managing big data, the latest WFM solutions are innovative, highly scalable and future-proof. They are sophisticated enough to analyze current resource competencies and model for future requirements quickly and efficiently - critical in the offshore industry.

It really does pay to reassess your approach to safety and compliance management. Follow these three steps to create a well-thought out strategy that combines people, process and technology. Automation and planning will enable a seamless, stress-free auditing experience and you'll have the right people and hard evidence to pass with flying colours.

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