FACT SHEET BOSIET

Helicopter Safety




Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training (BOSIET)

Just about every operator worldwide insists that anyone going offshore must complete an offshore survival course before being allowed to travel. In the UK the BOSIET course ensures all workers have a standard awareness of the potential hazards on offshore installations and equips workers with the knowledge, skills and confidence to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency. This includes having practised underwater escape from a helicopter ditching, how to use personal and helicopter survival equipment and the basics of survival at sea.

Background

In use for more than 30 years the BOSIET standard was designed by and in consultation with industry employers, the workforce, trade unions, the offshore division of the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), training providers and technical specialists. The standard is owned by the oil and gas industry under the custodianship of OPITO the industry's skills organisation. P

What does the BOSIET course include?

A three-day course, the training focuses on basic safety induction, emergency breathing systems (EBS), fire-fighting and self-rescue, sea survival and first aid.

Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) is a core element of the BOSIET standard and ensures offshore workers understand the risks, hazards and actions to be taken in the event of an emergency situation arising during helicopter travel.

HUET includes practising the key principles of preparing for a water landing and evacuation from a surface, submerged and inverted aircraft. The training has proven to be highly effective in real scenarios when the aircraft has undergone a controlled ditching.

How often is it reviewed?

All training is delivered to the workforce through a licensing arrangement in which OPITO continually audits the training providers to ensure they are meeting the right quality and standard. The standard is reviewed regularly.

Offshore workers must refresh their BOSIET every four years. HUET training is also refreshed every four years in compliance with the OPITO Further Offshore Emergency Training (FOET) standard. The refresher training is specifically focussed on training which cannot be conducted in the workplace as part of planned drills and exercises such as fire-fighting and helicopter escape.

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Why is the training not carried out in more realistic North Sea conditions?

Around 20 years ago the standard contained training elements of cold water, wind, waves and darkness. These elements were removed in the mid-1990s following extensive consultation with industry employers, employees and trade unions who were all in agreement that:

- Knowledge retention is seriously eradicated when training is undertaken in such harsh environments, especially cold water.
- Key and critical learning is often missed as trainees focus on adapting to the harsh environment rather than learning the critical survival techniques that will be applied in every emergency regardless of the weather environment.
- There is no way a training scenario can replicate every potential weather environment scenario.

Other elements have also changed, why?

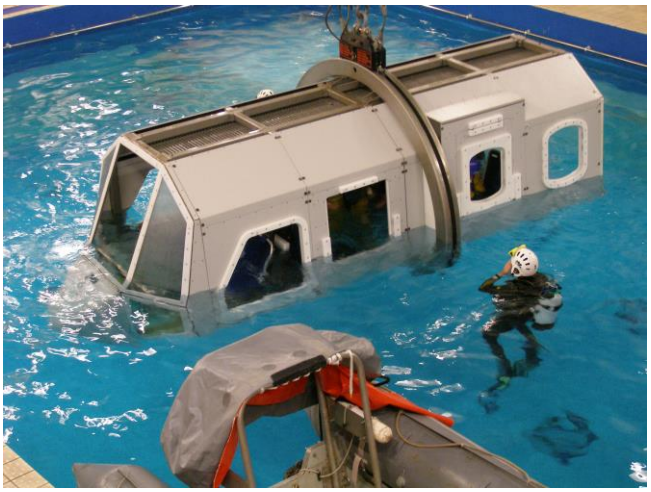
The training for specialist fire-fighting, hose handling and search & rescue were removed from the standard. This was the result of an analysis which showed that in the event of an emergency these specialist roles were already covered by highly trained teams. It is more important that all remaining personnel are able to respond appropriately to alarms, calls to muster and other instructions.

The evolving nature of the OPITO training standards saw the introduction of the Emergency Breathing Systems (EBS) in the mid-1990s. Designed to counter the effects of 'cold shock', which limits people's ability to hold their breath for long periods of time, re-breathers were introduced to the standard so individuals had time to evacuate in the event of an upturned helicopter scenario.

If helicopters carry approx 16 passengers, why is the training not carried out to the same number?

HUET training is conducted with a maximum of four trainees in the Escape Trainer alongside an instructor supported by two pool divers. This enables safe and effective management of the training, a high quality of individual instruction and a robust assessment of competence during the surface and submerged pool training scenarios.

If the training sought to establish a realistic "live" scenario where 16 delegates were to undergo the course at the same time, the training would actually be less effective.



Eight divers and four instructors would be required making it a minimum of 28 people in the training pool at the same time. This would make it almost impossible for the assessors to observe whether each individual was capable and competent of escaping – a critical element of the standard.
It would also increase the risk of injury to delegates during the training.

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