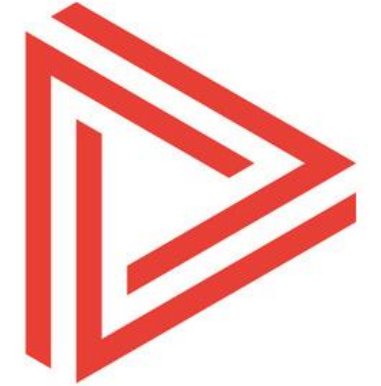


Step
Change
in Safety



Learning from non-conforming cargo

Safety Moment



Disclaimer: this safety moment is designed to prevent similar incidents occurring. All guidance herein is provided in good faith and Step Change in Safety nor its member companies accept responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions contained within this safety moment.



Key Message

Non-conforming cargo continues to present a preventable risk across the energy industry.

Consistent identification, reporting and shared learning are essential if we are to reduce incidents and improve cargo handling standards.

The OEUK Guidelines for the Safe Packing, & Handling of Cargo to and from Offshore Locations provide industry-recognised guidance to support the safe transport of cargo within the energy industry.



Learning from non-conforming cargo

Packaging & Handling of Cargo – Background

In 2001, following a fatal incident involving containerised cargo on an offshore supply vessel, the Marine Safety Forum established a workgroup comprising of operators, contractors and vendors.

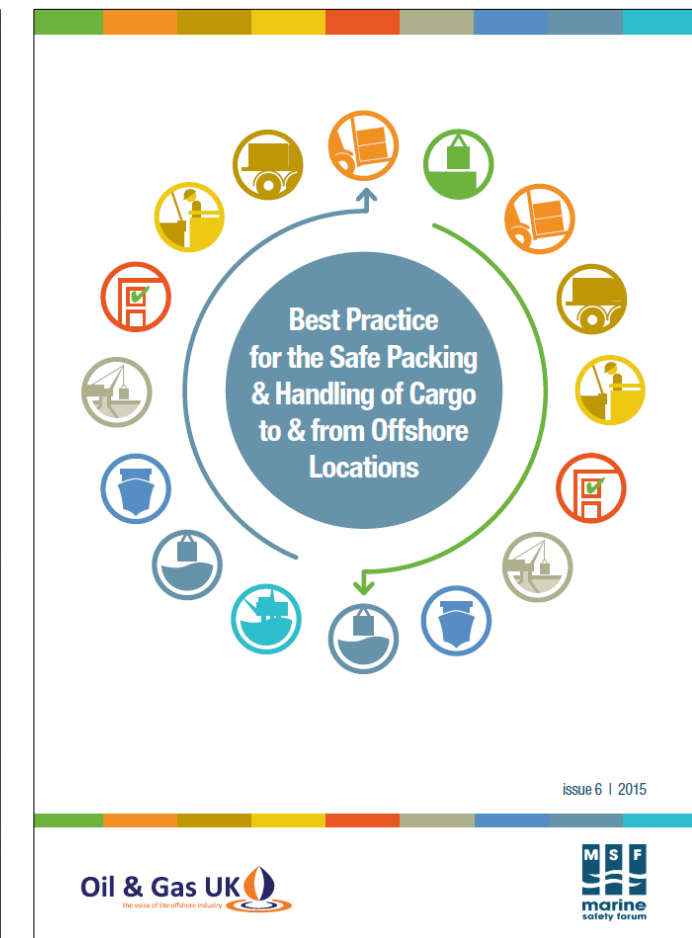
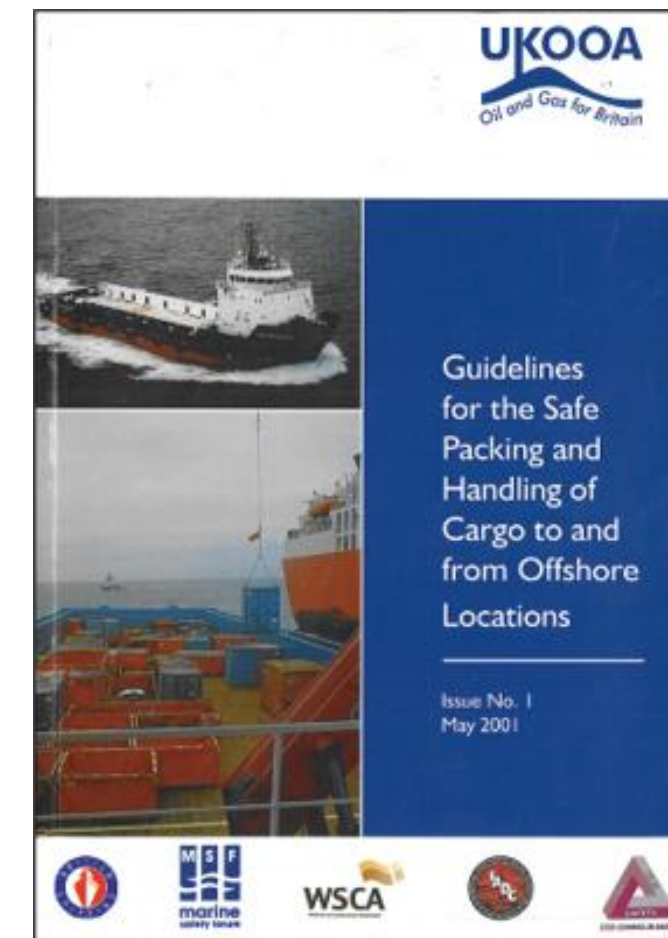
The objective of the group was to identify areas where additional guidance would improve safety and reduce risk in cargo operations.

In May 2001, the first edition of the Guidelines for the Safe Packing and Handling of Cargo to and from Offshore Locations was issued.

The purpose of these guidelines is to recognise and remove hazards associated with cargo packing and handling during normal operations and to avoid or reduce the associated risks to assist:

- > Operators
- > Vessel owners
- > Logistics companies
- > Contractors
- > Vendors
- > Onshore and offshore personnel

In 2015 the guidance was updated to include a dedicated section to non-conforming cargo and the first Non-Conformance Codes were introduced to industry



Learning from non-conforming cargi

Non-Conformance Codes

Purpose of the codes:

- > Standardise the classification of non-conforming cargo
- > Enable consistent reporting across the industry
- > Facilitate analysis of cargo, CCU, and lifting set faults
- > Identify recurring trends and problem areas
- > Target improvements and share lessons learned
- > Minimise risk to personnel and assets

Non-Conformance Code Categories

The codes are grouped into seven sections:

Code	Category
100	CCUs
200	Lifting and slinging
300	Dangerous / Hazardous Goods
400	Documentation
500	Packing
600	Others
700	Positive feedback

Best practice is to adopt a unified approach by recording all non-conformances using these recognised codes.

A common language enables meaningful industry-wide analysis and drives improvement



Learning from non-conforming cargo

Why this still matters

Many companies continue to use the codes successfully. However, inconsistent use limits the industry's ability to:

- > Identify emerging risks
- > Benchmark performance
- > Share lessons effectively
- > Prevent serious incident

Non-conforming cargo remains a significant contributor to dropped objects, lifting incidents, vessel damage, and personal injury. Every unreported or unshared finding is a missed opportunity to prevent harm elsewhere.



Learning from non-conforming cargo

Call to action – Strengthening Industry Collaboration

To reinforce our shared commitment to collective risk awareness, we are seeking industry support:

1. Does your company currently use the Non-Conformance Codes?
2. Would your company be willing to share anonymised non-conformance data?
3. Would your company be prepared to share findings, trends, and learning from non-conforming cargo inspections so that SCIS can share key insights with the wider industry?

Together, through consistent reporting, shared learning and proactive leadership, we can improve industry standards and prevent serious incidents before they occur.

Every shared lesson strengthens our collective ability to prevent harm.

Capture your responses here



Or [here](#)



Learning from non-conforming cargo

Verification of learnings shared and feedback

Safety Moment

To ensure this learning leads to meaningful improvement, follow the Plan Do Check Act process and provide your feedback to Step Change in Safety.

Plan

Review the learning and assess how it applies to your organisation, work area or tasks.

Identify any risks, gaps, or required changes to current procedures.

Do

Implement necessary actions - communicate changes, update procedures, and ensure everyone affected understands their responsibility.

Act

Make any needed adjustments based on what you've learned.

Share lessons with your team, document improvements and feedback to Step Change in Safety.

Check

Monitor the effectiveness of the changes. Observe work practices, gather feedback, and verify that the learnings have been understood and applied correctly.

Share your learnings and feedback.
Your proactive engagement helps create a safer workplace for everyone.



Feedback Form

Link to [Resource Feedback Form](#)



Preventing incidents and injuries across the energy industry
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