



BP EXPLORATION

HSSE & Integrity ALERT

Subject: Incorrect Fittings on Portable Air Receivers

Platform/Site: Andrew

Date: June 2012

What Happened:

Whilst carrying out a check on a recently installed portable air receiver (commonly referred to as a "pig"), a mechanical technician noticed that the fittings screwed into the pig did not look correct. On further investigation it was found that male National Pipe Thread (NPT) fittings had been screwed into the female British Standard Pipe (BSP) threads of the pig.

The NPT standard is a tapered thread, whereas BSP is a parallel thread. There were therefore only 2 threads of each NPT fitting holding the assembly attached in place.

Subsequent inspection of other pigs has identified further examples of incompatible fitting threads.

Whip checks were in place but would have provided no protection in the event of a failure, as they were attached to the screwed fitting. The fitting would therefore have detached under pressure.

An investigation is on-going to understand the root causes of this incident. When root causes have been established, lessons learned will be shared across BP North Sea Region through the Lessons Learned process (UKCS-AL-002).

This purpose of this alert is to promote awareness of this issue to other sites where incompatible fitting threads on portable air receivers may not have been identified.



Keywords: Temporary, Air Receiver, Pig, Fittings, Thread, NPT, BSP