

# Safety Alert – Corroded Deck Gratings: Unable to Determine Condition from Visual Inspection

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During inspection of gratings on a fixed jacket offshore installation, it was identified that where gratings have suffered significant corrosion, the build up of corrosion product remained in place and masked the true extent of the loss of metal.

Impacting corroded gratings with a hammer, to remove corrosion product, identified gratings where there was an unacceptable loss of metal once the corrosion had been removed.

Without removal of the corrosion product, gratings which had unacceptable corrosion damage could not readily be differentiated from gratings which had less severe underlying corrosion. This resulted in misleading results from simple visual inspections.

Recommendation:

Where inspection is carried out of gratings which have a build up of corrosion product on the load bars, the corrosion product should be removed in order to allow the amount of metal remaining to be accurately assessed.



Picture 1: Corroded gratings prior to removal of corrosion product build up



Picture 2: By removing the corrosion product, the severity of metal loss can be seen