



Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board
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Notice to Operators

OFFSHORE HELIDECK STANDARDS

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Paragraph 5 (1) (a) of the *Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Installations Regulations* states that every helideck which forms part of an installation shall conform to Transport Canada TP 4414, *Guidelines Respecting Helicopter Facilities on Ships*. TP 4414 was published in 1987 and has not been updated or amended since that time. The document was originally developed for helicopter facilities on ships and does not specifically address criteria for offshore installations.

CAP 437 *Offshore Helicopter Landing Areas – Guidance on Standards* is a UK, Civil Aviation Authority document which has become a worldwide standard and reflects the agreed international standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). This is a current document, which is updated regularly to incorporate the latest technological changes and research regarding helicopter aviation safety. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted elements of CAP 437 as the new mandatory standard for helideck firefighting equipment and visual aids (helideck lighting and markings). These requirements have been incorporated in the 2009 version of the IMO MODU Code. A number of Operators have submitted Regulatory Query Forms (RQFs) requesting that elements of CAP 437 be substituted for TP 4414 provisions. These RQFs were reviewed and approved as they provided for a higher level of safety. Based on this review, the use of CAP 437 meets the ALARP principle of reducing risk to “as low as reasonably practicable”.

Therefore, operators are directed to review their helideck arrangements and pursuant to section 155 of the *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act* (federal version), are authorized to substitute TP 4414 with the standards of CAP 437 in areas where parts of CAP 437 are deemed to be a higher standard. As a minimum this should include visual aids and firefighting equipment.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact:

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