

# FPSO HSSE TOOLBOX TALK

## Operational Drift – The Silent Safety Risk

**Purpose:** To raise awareness of operational drift and how it increases safety risks during FPSO operations and maintenance activities.

### 1. What Is Operational Drift?

Operational drift is the gradual and often unnoticed deviation from approved procedures, standards, or safe operating limits during normal work. It usually happens without bad intent and becomes dangerous when small changes slowly turn into accepted practice.

### 2. Why Operational Drift Is Dangerous on FPSOs

FPSOs operate with multiple layers of safety barriers. Operational drift weakens these barriers over time. When several weakened barriers align, the risk of a major accident significantly increases.

### 3. Common Examples of Operational Drift Offshore

- Permit-to-Work checks being rushed or partially skipped
- SIMOPS controls relaxed to save time
- Tool inspections not carried out before use
- Damaged tools used to complete a task quickly
- PPE requirements relaxed due to heat or discomfort

### 4. Warning Signs to Watch For

- 'We've always done it this way' attitude
- Procedures rarely consulted during work
- Workarounds becoming normal practice
- Near misses not reported or discussed
- Focus on speed instead of safe execution

### 5. How We Can Prevent Operational Drift

- Follow approved procedures and PTW requirements
- Use the right tools and inspect them before use
- Wear required PPE at all times
- Stop work if something does not feel right
- Speak up and report unsafe conditions or deviations

### 6. Key Message

Operational drift happens slowly but can have serious consequences. The job is never so urgent that it cannot be done safely. Everyone has a role in stopping drift before it leads to incidents.

### 7. Toolbox Talk Discussion Questions

- Have we noticed shortcuts becoming normal during our work?
- Are our tools and PPE in good condition today?
- Is there anything about today's job that could lead to operational drift?

**Reminder:** Operational drift is everyone's responsibility to prevent. Work safely, follow procedures, and protect yourself and your colleagues.