

Title	EHS04: Management of Safety-critical Element
Publisher/Author	UKOOA
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Scope	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>The Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations (DCR)' have amended the Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations (SCR)" to replace the certification regime established by the, now revoked, Offshore Installations (Construction and Survey) Regulations". These new Regulations dispense with the concept of a certifying authority and place sole responsibility for the development and ongoing maintenance of a safe installation onto each duty holder. Duty Holders are now required to list the Safety-critical elements (SCEs), have them subject to independent review and to develop a scheme for verification of their performance throughout the life cycle.</p> <p>This change will allow appropriate effort to be focused on those items which provide the greatest contribution to providing a safe place of work.</p> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>These Guidelines are intended to set out what is considered in the industry to be good practice in the management of major accident hazards through the identification and verification of the suitability of SCEs. Following these Guidelines will assist in the compliance of the relevant requirements of the SCR particularly those aspects modified by the DCR. These Guidelines are not mandatory and different standards may be adopted in a particular situation where to do so would maintain an equivalent level of safety or suitability.</p> <p>These Guidelines cover any structure, plant, equipment or computer programmes which may be identified as SCEs. They do not cover the auditing of the Safety Management System (SMS) which is covered separately under the SCR and is equally important. However, the verification arrangements for SCEs will be an important component of the overall SMS.</p>
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