

GOMO Chapter 2

Abbreviations & Definitions

GOMO Chapter 2 Abbreviations & Definitions

Revision History

Revision Number	Date	Section	Changes
1	Aug 2025	All	Various updates and additions to Abbreviations and Definitions.

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2 Introduction

Abbreviations and terminology which may be used in this document and the associated appendices are defined below.

2.1 Abbreviations

24/7	24 hours per day, 7 days per week
A/H	Anchor handling
ABS	American Bureau of Shipping
AHTS	Anchor Handling Tug Supply Vessel
AHV	Anchor handling vessel
BP	Bollard Pull
CBP	Continuous Bollard Pull
CMID	Common Marine Inspection Document (Sponsored by IMCA)
COLREGS	International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea, 1972
CoS	Chamber of Shipping (Trade association representing owners and operators of UK-based shipping companies)
COSHH	Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health
CoSWP	Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen
DC	Daughter Craft
DGPS	Differential Global Positioning System
DMA	Danish Maritime Authority
DNMI	Det Norske Meteorologiske Institutt
DNV	Det Norske Veritas
DP	Dynamic Positioning
DPO	Dynamic Positioning Operator (As defined by IMCA, MTS etc.)
DS	Danish Shipping
DSV	Diving Support Vessel
ERRV	Emergency Response & Rescue Vessel
ERRVA	Emergency Response & Rescue Vessel Owners' Association
ETA	Estimated/Expected Time of Arrival
ETD	Estimated Time of Departure
FMEA	Failure mode and effect analysis
FPSO	Floating production, storage and offloading unit
FRC	Fast Rescue Craft
GOMO	Guidelines for Offshore Marine Operations (This document)
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAZID	Hazard Identification
HAZOP	Hazardous Operations (Assessment)
HF	High Frequency (Radio)
HIRA	Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
HSSE	Health, Safety, Security and Environment

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Hs	Significant Wave Height
HSE	Health & Safety Executive (UK Government Agency)
HSSE	Health, Safety Environmental and Quality (Management) (Generic term used throughout this document)
JAG/TI	Joint Action Group / Temperature Indices
IACS	International Association of Classification Societies
IADC	International Association of Drilling Contractors
IBC	International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals (IBC Code)
ICS	International Chamber of Shipping
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMCA	International Marine Contractors Association (Trade association for marine contractors engaged in supporting offshore industry or similar bodies)
IMDG	International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMPA	International Marine Pilots' Association
ISM	International Safety Management Code
ISPS	International Ship and Port Facility Security Code
JSA	Job Safety Analysis
KATE	Knowledge, Ability, Training and Experience
LRS	Lloyds Register of Shipping
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) (IMO Convention 1973 and as subsequently amended)
MBL	Minimum Breaking Load
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MF	Medium Frequency (Radio)
MGN	Marine Guidance Note (Issued by the MCA)
MLC	Maritime Labour Convention (ILO Convention 2006)
MOC	Management of Change (Process)
MODU	Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit
MOU	Mobile Offshore Unit
MSC	Maritime Safety Committee (IMO Committee)
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
MSN	Merchant Shipping Notice (Issued by the MCA)
MTS	Marine Technology Society
MWS	Marine Warranty Surveyor
NMA	Norwegian Maritime Authority
NSA	Norwegian Shipowners' Association
NWEA	Northwest European Area
OEUK	Offshore Energy UK (Trade association for UK Offshore operators and support contractors)
OCIMF	Oil Companies' Industry Marine Forum (Trade association for major oil companies engaged in marine activities)
OIM	Offshore Installation Manager
OMHEC	Offshore Mechanical Handling Equipment Committee

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OOW	Officer of the Watch
OSV	Offshore Support Vessel
OVID	Offshore Vessel Inspection Database (Sponsored by OCIMF)
PCP	Permanent Chaser Pendant / Pennant
PIC	Person In Charge (of MOU)
PLB	Personal Locator Beacon
PM	Planned Maintenance (System)
PMS	Power Management System
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSA	Petroleum Safety Authority
PSV	Platform Supply Vessel
PTW	Permit to Work
RA	Risk Assessment
ROV	Remotely Operated Vehicle
SBV	Stand-By Vessel
SCV	Small Commercial Vessel Code
SDPO	Senior Dynamic Positioning Operator (As defined by IMCA, MTS etc.)
SIMOPS	Simultaneous Operations
SJA	Safe Job Analysis
SMC	Safe Manning Certificate
SMPEP	Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan
SOLAS	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) (IMO Convention 1974 and as subsequently amended)
SOV	Service Operation Vessel
SSV	"Safety Stand-By Vessel" or "Stand-By Safety Vessel"
STCW	International Convention for Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (IMO Convention 1978 and as subsequently amended)
SWL	Safe Working Load
TBT	Toolbox Talk
TMS	Tug Management System
UHF	Ultra High Frequency
UKCS	United Kingdom Continental Shelf
VHF	Very High Frequency

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2.2 Terminology Definitions

Accident: Undesired event resulting in harm to persons, environmental pollution or damage to physical assets.

Adverse Weather: Environmental conditions requiring precautionary measures to safeguard the facility or maintain safe working.

Asset(s): Any infrastructure or equipment associated with offshore production.

Banksman: Person on installation or vessel guiding the Crane Operator, may also be referred to as "Flagman" or "Dogman".

Base: Quay facilities with logistics support dedicated to petroleum activities.

Base Company or Operator: Owner or operator of a base.

Base Manager: Person responsible for operations on the base.

Blow Off: See "Drift Off".

Blow On: See "Drift On".

Bollard Pull: The towing vessel's pull normally specified as maximum continuous pull.

Bridle towing arrangement: Two wires or chains of equal length arranged as a triangle that connects the towed object to the vessel towing it.

Catenary curves: Specification of towline and anchor line curvature for various loads.

Chafe Chain: Short length of chain in way of fairleads to minimise wear on wire or rope bridle components.

Chain tail: A short length of chain consisting of two or more links.

Charterer: Party hiring marine vessel either on behalf of itself or other interests.

Cherry-picking: Selective discharge of cargo from within the stow.

Competence: Acquisition of knowledge, skills and abilities at a level of expertise sufficient to be able to perform a task to a required standard.

Confined Space: A free entry, non-dangerous space where the relevant risk assessment has identified that under exceptional circumstances there would remain a (remote) possibility for the atmosphere to be adversely affected.

Entry and egress routes to such spaces likely to be restricted and controlled by permit.

Coxswain: Generic term for the person in charge of steering and navigating a small craft.

Dangerous Space: Enclosed or confined space in which it is foreseeable that the atmosphere may at some stage contain toxic or flammable gases or vapours, or to be deficient in oxygen, to the extent that it may endanger the life or health of any person(s) entering that space.

Daughter Craft: Larger fast rescue craft of semi-rigid construction and typically up to 11 metres in length, provided with fixed protection from elements for crew and recovered survivors, capable of being deployed from host vessel for periods of up to 6 hours.

Dogman: See "Banksman"

Down Weather: A position on the lee side of an offshore facility or vessel.

Dynamic Positioning: Dynamically positioned vessel (DP-vessel) means a unit or a vessel which automatically maintains its position (fixed location or predetermined track) exclusively by means of thruster force.

Drift Off: Circumstances whereby, in the event of loss of power, environmental

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forces would result in a vessel moving away from an offshore facility or other navigational hazard.

Drift On: Circumstances whereby, in the event of loss of power, environmental forces would result in a vessel moving towards an offshore facility or other navigational hazard.

Duty Holder: In relation to a fixed installation, this is the Operator. In relation to a mobile installation, it is the Owner.

Emergency Situation: Any unplanned event which may result in harm to persons, environmental pollution or damage to physical assets.

Facility, Offshore: In the context of this document any physical structure on or above the surface of the sea in the vicinity of which marine operations are undertaken. This term includes bottom supported and floating installations, drilling units of all types and other vessels engaged in offshore support operations.

Flag State: Jurisdiction where a vessel is registered.

Flagman: See "Banksman".

Gog (or Gob) Wire: Wire used to control movement of main tow line when vessel is engaged in towing operations.

Gypsy: Wheel with machined pockets for hoisting chains fitted on a winch.

Hold Point: Stage in any operation at which progress will be assessed to ensure that anticipated objectives at that point have been achieved and that all conditions are favourable for safe continuation of activities. Proceeding past each hold point may require formal acknowledgement in procedures or operational logs.

Hot Work: Welding, burning or flame producing operations.

Incident: Undesired event resulting in damage to assets, equipment or the environment.

Installation, Offshore: Installation, plant and equipment for Energy activities, excluding Offshore Support Vessels. Includes pipelines and cables unless otherwise provided. A structure for exploration or exploitation of mineral resources or related purposes that is, will be, or has been used whilst standing or stationed in water, or on the foreshore or land intermittently submerged.

Interfield Operations: Operations carried out by vessels between offshore facilities.

J-chaser: Hook used by anchor handling vessels to "fish" the installation's anchor lines.

Kenter link: Device for linking two chain lengths.

Lee Side: That side of an offshore facility (or vessel) away from which wind is currently blowing.

Logistics Company: Organisation which, on behalf of its clients, arranges for the transportation of cargo to or from offshore facilities.

Logistics Service Provider: See Logistics Company.

Master: Nominated person having command or charge of a vessel.

Does not include any pilot.

May: When used in this document and associated appendices "May" is defined as "an optional action".

Mechanical Means of Rescue (Recovery): Arrangements installed on a Stand-By Vessel to facilitate rescue of survivors from the sea in circumstances where rescue craft cannot safely be deployed or recovered. Proprietary designs include the Dacon Scoop and

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Sealift Basket.

Mechanical Recovery Device: As for "Mechanical Means of Recovery".

Mechanical Stopper: Device for temporarily securing chains or wires to facilitate safe connection or release. Proprietary designs include the Karm Forks and Triplex Stopper.

Near-miss: Undesired circumstance with the potential to cause harm, injury, ill health, damage to equipment or the environment.

Nominated Manager: Nominated persons "in charge" of a specified area or task to be performed.

Non-conformity/Non-compliance: A circumstance where guidelines, regulation or legislation have not been followed.

Northwest European Area: Area which includes the northwest European continental shelf and extending 200 miles from any coastline.

Offshore Installation Manager: Person in charge of an Offshore Installation, also known as Facility Manager.

Offshore Support Vessel: Any vessel involved in supporting offshore activities which is not a mobile offshore unit.

Operating Company/Operator: In the context of this document "Operator" refers to the party responsible for the management of Offshore Facility activities on behalf of licensees.

Owner: In the context of this document "Owner" refers to the party responsible for the management of one or more offshore support vessels and includes those operating tonnage managed on behalf of others.

Pear link: Device for linking two different chain dimensions.

Pendant: Wire hanging permanently

attached to the installation used for chasing out anchors.

Pennant wire: Buoy wire; wire from the seabed up to a buoy on the surface.

Permanent chaser: Collar through which an anchor chain runs, to which recovery pendant wire is attached.

Personnel Transfer Basket: Equipment utilised for transferring personnel by crane. May also be referred to as Personnel Carrier.

Piggyback anchor: Any additional anchor connected to the primary when the latter anchor has insufficient holding capacity.

Pigtail: Short chain or wire with open end links.

Port State: Country (or its maritime authority) that exercises control over foreign flagged vessels visiting its ports and territorial waters, ensuring compliance with international maritime regulations.

Radio Silence: Restrictions of limitations to radio transmissions whilst with a safety zone, usually relating to handling of explosives on the facility.

Recognised classification society: Classification society recognised by IACS to approve vessel design, construction, outfitting and operations.

Redundancy: The ability or possibility of a component or system to maintain or reestablish its function following a failure.

Risk Assessment: A process of assessing risk in any operation.

Safety Delegate: Nominated representative for crew or part of crew or group of workers with regard to health, safety and environmental matters. May also be referred to as Safety Representative.

Safety Zone: Established within a radius

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extending to distance determined by the relevant legislations beyond the outline of any installation, excluding submarine pipelines.

Sector State: State having special rights and jurisdiction over the development of marine resources within its exclusive economic zone.

Shall: When used in this document and associated appendices "Shell" is defined as "a mandatory action".

Shark's Jaws: See "Mechanical Stopper" above.

Ship Owner: Those responsible for normal vessel management and operation.

Shipper: A person who, as principal or agent for another, consigns goods for carriage by sea.

Should: When used in this document and associated appendices "Should" is defined as "referring to good practice and highly recommended".

Significant Wave Height: Average height of the highest one third of the waves over a period of 20 minutes.

Simultaneous Operations: In the context of this document two or more vessels supporting the same or different operations within the safety zone around an offshore facility.

Socket, Wire Rope: Any manufactured end termination fitted to the end of a wire rope to facilitate the connection of other rigging elements.

Spooling gear: Arrangement to guide wire onto drum.

Standby Vessel: Older term for Emergency Response and Rescue Vessel.

Stand-By Vessel: Any vessel mobilised to provide response and rescue support at one or more offshore facilities. Such

support will primarily involve the rescue of personnel from the sea and their subsequent care. It may also include firefighting. May also be referred to as "Emergency Response and Rescue Vessel", "Safety Stand-By Vessel" or "Stand-By Safety Vessel".

Stern roller: Large roller on the stern of an anchor handling vessel to facilitate the recovery or deployment of moorings or other equipment.

Stinger: In the context of this document the pennant installed on the crane's hook to facilitate the safe connection and release of the lifting rigging on any item of cargo. A suitable safety hook will be fitted to the lower end of the pennant.

Supply chain: Base or base company - vessel or Ship Owner - installation or operating company.

Supply service: Supply and/or receipt of goods to or from offshore facilities.

Surfer: Small or medium sized high-speed craft used for transportation of personnel or light cargoes in benign areas of operations. Foredeck design is such that craft can be docked into "surfer landing" to facilitate safe transfer of personnel.

Surfer Landing (or Ladder): Docking arrangements installed on offshore facilities or vessels to facilitate access and transfer of personnel using "surfer" - type craft.

Swivel: Connecting link or device used to pre-vent development of twists in wire or chain cables.

Tension control: Control facility to enable winch to be set to pull in or pay out at a specified tension.

Toolbox Talk: A meeting of the individuals due to be involved in an imminent task to review the task, individual responsibilities, equipment

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required, competency of the individuals, hazards, any Safe Job Analysis or Risk Assessment and/or Permit to Work in place, simultaneous tasks ongoing which may affect the task and any other relevant subject.

Tow eye/Towline guide: Arrangement for keeping towline in centre line or midship area.

Towing pins/guide pins: Device for guiding towline or pennant wire.

Towing winch: Similar to a working winch, often geared differently. Newer towing winches have drums smaller than working winches.

Towline: Wire on towing winch used for towing.

Trigger Point: Threshold, generally relating to environmental conditions, prompting review and / or risk assessment relating to the continuation or suspension of present operations.

Tug Management System: Navigation equipment on board an anchor handling vessel for an anchoring operation functioning as an interface with the installation's (MOU) main navigation equipment.

Tugger winch: Winch provided to move items laterally on the deck of an offshore support vessel. May also be used to secure such items whilst in transit. May have remote control on newer vessels or may be controlled from the bridge on some vessels.

Tugger wire: Steel or fibre wire used for tugger winch.

Up Weather: A position on the weather side of an offshore facility or vessel.

Weak link: Component in any load-bearing system which is designed to fail at a pre-determined load to protect the other components in the system.

Weather criteria: Specification of maximum allowed weather (wind, waves, etc.) when

performing the operation.

Weather Side: That side of an offshore facility (or vessel) towards which the prevailing environmental forces are acting.

Weather window: The nominated duration of specific weather criteria required to undertake a particular operation, or critical phase of same, including an allowance for any contingencies.

Working at Height: Any work undertaking where those performing it are not standing on level ground, at deck level or in other circumstances where there is a risk of injury should the worker fall (adapted from CoSWP).

Working winch: Winch for hoisting and setting anchors. Power, length, width and diameter set the application area of the working winch.

Working wire: Wire in working winch including termination, for example socket.