

GOMO

Guidelines for Offshore
Marine Operations

GOMO Chapter 1

Introduction & Front Matter

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Revision History

Revision Number	Date	Section	Changes
1	Aug 2025	All	Merged with Front Matter and old references removed.
			Various minor changes to reflect current document management
1.1	May 2026	1.3 Document Stewardship & Management	ISOA added

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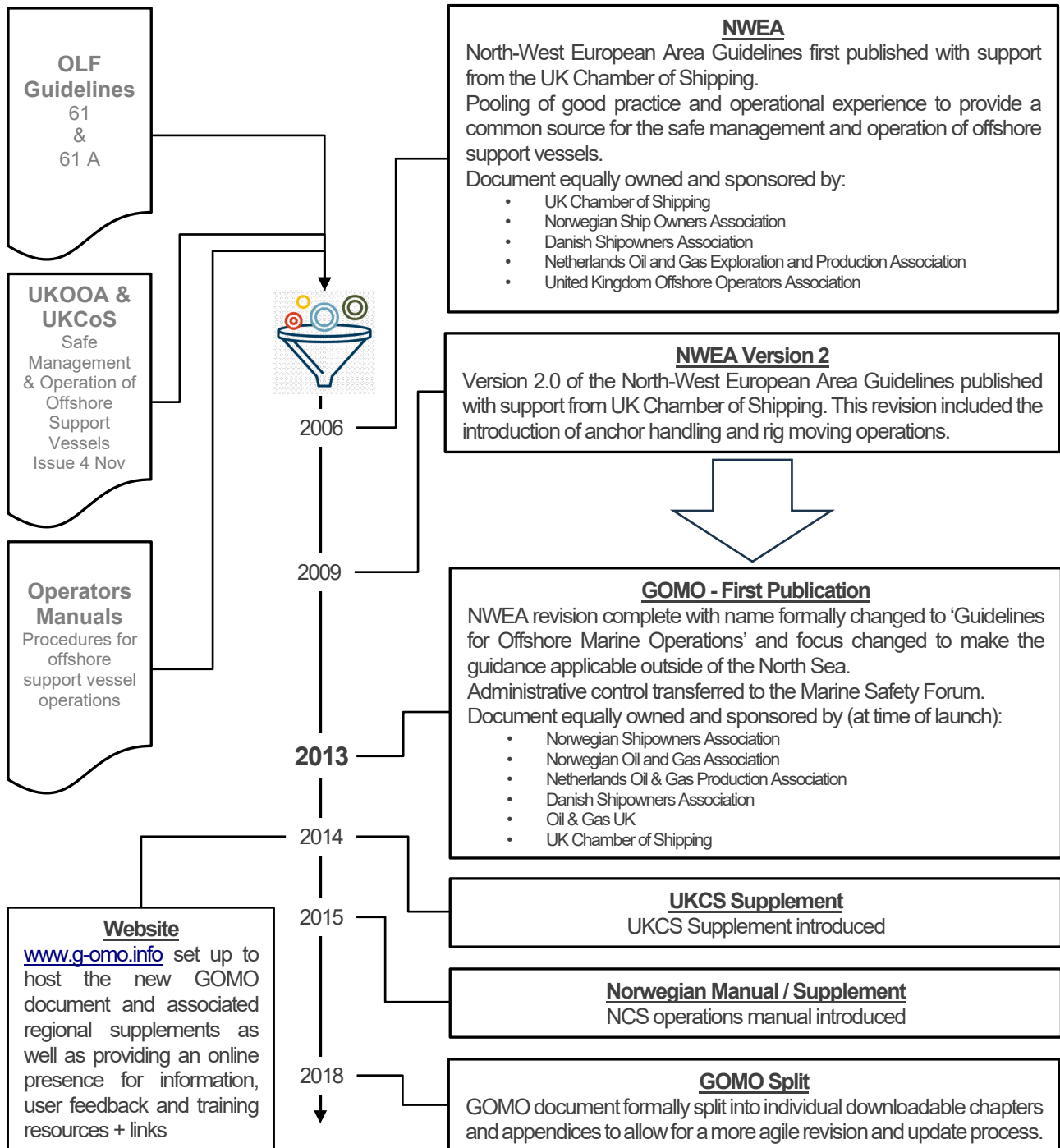
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1 Introduction

1.1 Preface

The Guidelines for Offshore Marine Operations (GOMO) was first published in 2013 and replaced the document titled “NWEA Guidelines for the Safe Management of Offshore Supply and Rig Move Operations”.

The timeline below shows the origins of GOMO and the associated supplements.



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1.2 Purpose & Use

The objective of this document is to provide guidance in the good practices which should be adopted to ensure the safety of personnel on board all vessels servicing and supporting the offshore energy sector, and to reduce the risks associated with such operations.

It particularly relates to the following activities:

1. Operations of offshore facilities.
2. Operations of vessels.

Whilst the good practices summarised in this document primarily reflect those adopted in the North-west European Area the authors recognise that its predecessor was becoming widely used out with this region and that many, if not all, of the recommendations included do indeed have global relevance.

Where it has been possible to make recommendations relating to operations out with its core area without diluting the original objectives these have been included.

It is recognised, however, that in certain circumstances local or company-specific requirements may exist. In this event this document should be read in the context of such requirements and interpreted accordingly.

To facilitate common practices on a global basis, where necessary, this document, together with included reporting forms, should be used as the basis for preparing procedures for local practices.

1.3 Document Stewardship & Management

The “stewardship” of this document, together with the process of its on-going management are described in Appendix 1-B.

This document is “owned” and sponsored by the following organisations:

1. Marine Safety Forum
2. Danish Shipping
3. Norwegian Shipowners’ Association
4. UK Chamber of Shipping
5. Offshore Norge
6. Element NL
7. Offshore Energies UK
8. International Marine Contractors Association
9. Oil Companies International Marine Forum
10. International Support Vessel Owners Association

1.4 Revision Process & Change Records

Each individual chapter and appendix of GOMO has been published as its own independent document to help facilitate a more agile revision process.

Each chapter / appendix is labelled with its own revision number and date along with a change log / revision history to show the changes from the previous revision.

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Every time a revised chapter or appendix is published a new copy of the combined GOMO document will also be published online reflecting the changes.

The review process is described in full at appendix 1-B.

1.5 Document Style & Structure

The principles used in preparing this document, together with the numbering conventions adopted are described in Appendix 1-A.

As described in this Appendix general information relating to all activities are included in the early part of the text following which, where possible, the information flow should follow that of a typical voyage to and from an offshore facility.

This is summarised in Figure 1 at section 1.9 of this chapter.

1.6 Protocols

The protocols used in the preparation of this document are described below.

1.6.1 Delegation of Authorities

Any references in this document to Facility Manager, OIM, Master, Base Manager or any other person in authority should be interpreted as also including their nominated deputies.

1.6.2 Terminology

In the context of this document “Operator” refers to the party responsible for the management of Offshore Facility activities on behalf of the licensees.

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

1.6.3 Verification of Information

Some information included in the main body of this document has been prepared by the various workgroups and subsequently verified by the steering committee.

Information included in the appendices to this document has been prepared by others. Where such information has been subject of an independent peer review it has been accepted as accurate and has not been subject of any further assessment prior to inclusion in these Guidelines.

1.6.4 Inclusion of Reference Material

References to further information from a wide range of sources, both public and private, have been included in this document.

In identifying any references to be included the following principles have been adopted:

1. The information included is generally accepted to represent best industrial practice.
2. The information included may be used from time to time as basis of design or in marine operations manuals.

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3. The information included may be referred to from time to time in contracts relating to marine operations.
4. The information included is subject to regular and rigorous peer review, being updated as required.
5. The information is included in the public domain, preferably in an electronic format and free of charge.
6. There is no commercial benefit to the source of the information as a result of its inclusion in this document.

1.7 Hierarchy of Authorities

The context of these Guidelines in the legislative and contractual environment in which marine operations are conducted is described in Appendix 1-B.

1.8 Regional or Local Supplements

It has been identified that in some instances the preparation of regional or local supplements to provide further guidance on specific circumstances or requirements within a particular area may be required.

Any guidance of this nature will not be prepared by the authors of this document, but to promote consistency and ease of use some common principles for the preparation of such regional or local guidance has been developed.

These are described in Appendix 1-C.

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1.9 Summary of Contents in Relation to a Typical Voyage

Voyage Phase	Chapters with Relevant Information
General	3, 4, 5, 6, 13
Vessel Procurement	3, 4, 13
Voyage Planning	9, 10
Mobilisation	4, 6, 13
Loading	3, 7.1, 9, 10, 11 (if relevant)
Outward Voyage	7
Approach to Location & Set-up	7, 8
Working at Location	7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (if AH operations), 12 (if relevant)
Departure from Location	8
Inward Voyage	7
Discharge	3, 4, 9, 10
De-Mobilisation	

Figure 1: Summary of Contents in Relation to a Typical Voyage

2 Comments, Queries & Response Arrangements

Comments, queries and general feedback from users relating to all aspects of this document are welcomed.

Such feedback can be submitted via the dedicated website <https://www.g-omo.info/> . This is done by selecting the “Leave Feedback” option next to each Chapter / Appendix title.

Alternatively, feedback can be submitted directly to the GOMO Secretariat at GOMO.Response@gmail.com

Any concerns regarding the contents of this document may also be submitted in a similar manner.

The GOMO Steering Committee will endeavour to respond to queries as soon as possible and will as a minimum discuss all feedback at the bi-annual steering committee meetings.

Content of the feedback will where relevant be fed into the revision process for individual chapters and appendices.