

Blinds in Relief Header Result in Tank Damage

What happened?

A production technician was conducting walk downs on a subsea chemical injection system and observed two spectacle blinds installed on the relief headers that tie in to the top of the chemical tanks. Upon discovering that there was pressure on the two tanks, the production team slowly relieved the pressure. The tanks have visible bulging and deformation as viewed from the top.

What went wrong?

The subsea injection system was installed by a third party working on behalf of a partner operated subsea well tie-back to another operator's host asset. The onshore mechanical commissioning lead did not act on an email from the Project Implementation Manager with instructions to add skillets to a commissioning work pack. The email included a blind list and marked up Piping and Instrument Diagrams showing the skillets.

Once installed, the skillets were not recorded into the project database.

Why did it happen?

The commissioning subject matter expert signed off a check sheet indicating the skillets had been removed but did not verify in the field that the work was completed.

What areas were identified for improvement?

Operator of the host asset will formally define the organizational structure including the level of oversight to manage third party contractors of partner operator-led projects.

Fabrication and commissioning team interfaces between an operator of a host asset and a partner operator of a subsea tie-back well should be managed to ensure the safe execution of projects and operations. This is inclusive of thorough and complete commissioning as there was a sign off that the skillets were removed but this was not verified in the field.

What will WE do to prevent this from happening HERE?

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