

COS SAFETY SHARE

WHAT WILL WE DO TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING HERE?

NOT ALL HANDRAILS CAN BE TRUSTED

What happened?

While doing housekeeping on the top deck of a remote wellhead platform, one of the contractor personnel leaned on a handrail, which slanted outward, causing him to lose his balance. He managed to recover his position and prevent himself from falling.

What went wrong?

Upon inspection by the person in charge, the handrail bases were [found to be] badly corroded, and one base had detached from the deck.

Why did it happen?

The affected handrail was the only one installed offshore, while other handrails were installed in the construction yard. The weldments of other handrails are still in good condition. Hence, the potential root cause of the severe corrosion at the affected handrail is due to improper installation of the handrail bases. Several possible factors could contribute to poor installation, including incorrect welding procedure (e.g., use of incorrect filler rod) and inadequate QA/QC process. This can result in galvanic corrosion. No welding procedure or QA/QC record was sighted during the investigation.

Deferred topside inspection program: The Inspection Plan was established in 2019, requiring a topside structural inspection every 3 years. A full topside inspection was planned at the beginning of 2022. However, it was deferred due to other priorities in the IAP (Integrated Asset Plan). The inspection team was finally mobilized in December 2022. Unfortunately, the team could not board the remote platform due to the adverse weather. It was decided to defer the inspection to after the 2023 annual shutdown (originally planned in April 2023), as the team was focusing on the annual shutdown preparation.

What areas were identified for improvement?

Installed temporary hard barricade (scaffold pipe) and hazard tape on the affected handrail.

Visual inspection [was carried out] on all handrails at remote wellhead platforms by a third-party inspector.

All construction activities on the platform, including those conducted by the well intervention team, shall follow the operations QA/QC process.

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