BUSINESS CHALLENGE

During their lifecycle, offshore structures are typically recertified after a major survey. This occurs:
- either when this recertification is required by national regulations;
- or when major changes – field development, production capacity increase, tie-back of subsea wells etc. – are carried out on these structures.

Recently, due to a change in economic conditions - and an increase in oil & gas recovery possibilities, operators often want to continue exploiting platforms beyond their 20-year designed lifecycle instead of investing in a new platform.

The challenge is to continue to use, in satisfactory safety conditions, those offshore platforms that have reached the end of their designed lifetime and have this extended use approved by statutory authorities.

SOLUTION

What is Offshore Platform Re-certification & Life Extension?

Certification of an offshore platform is based on the initial design and construction appraisal, the actual construction phase, and then includes periodical follow-up surveys. Bureau Veritas maintains records of design and fabrication documents, as well as the model of the structure used to check the design suitability and to identify critical parts. Recertification along platform design lifetime, based upon major periodic surveys, is ensured through a very smooth recertification process made possible by the inspection of assets by Bureau Veritas on a regular basis. However, when the platform is ageing, and is planned to remain in service longer than this design lifetime, a comprehensive re-appraisal of the platform conditions should be carried out before any lifetime extension. This re-appraisal takes into account the actual condition of structure and, during the analysis phase, also uses recent metocean data and calculation methods that are more scientifically advanced than those used during the initial certification.

What are the key benefits?

Whether re-certifications are issued after a major modification, or to extend an offshore platform’s usage according to statutory requirements, they provide:
- A new or continued License to Operate;
- Reduction in amount of repairs and reinforcements needed;
- Confidence for the operator, regulatory agencies and surrounding community that the platform is safe and reliable.

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS?

Bureau Veritas has over 30 years experience in both initial certifications and re-certifications of offshore platforms.

This experience on offshore platforms ranges from assets in the North Sea to assets in the Gulf of Mexico, offshore Brazil, offshore Africa, in the Mediterranean Sea, in Asia (India, China, Thailand, etc.), Australia, New Zealand etc. In several countries, Bureau Veritas’ certifying role is delegated by national authorities, e.g. in the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand etc., or national oil companies e.g. in the U.A.E., Qatar, Mexico, Brazil, China, etc.
OUR APPROACH

Life extension re-certifications include:
- Major survey of platform structure to assess remaining thicknesses of load-bearing elements and absence of degradation or flaws at critical spots;
- Collection of updated metocean data corresponding to platform location;
- Independent calculation by modern FEM means;
- Comparison of stress results obtained with allowable values as per codes, standards and regulations currently applicable;
- Definition of necessary reinforcements and repairs, if any, and/or limitations of use;
- Issuance of final report and certificate.

FAQ

Does re-certification of an offshore platform suppose a particular regulatory frame?

Re-certification of an offshore platform may be carried out in the following cases:
- within a statutory certification frame, where Bureau Veritas is empowered by the national authority—final certificate is issued by Bureau Veritas on behalf of this authority;
- within a statutory verification frame—report and certificate issued by Bureau Veritas are used by the operator to support their request to national authorities to obtain a Licence to Operate;
- without any statutory frame and on a case-to-case basis—Bureau Veritas report and certificate re-assure the operator of the fitness of their assets or help them to make the right decisions to ensure safe and smooth continued operations with their existing platform.

CLIENT REFERENCES

Bureau Veritas has an extensive customer portfolio for its offshore platform certification and recertification work. One example is Dutch Mining in the Dutch sector of the North Sea, where Bureau Veritas has certified over 60 platforms for several operators. Approximately 30 have already earned re-certifications, several of these life extensions (the oldest were originally certified by Bureau Veritas in 1975).

CONTACT

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