

SAFETY TALK

WORKBOX SESSIONS: EDUCATIONAL AND ENJOYABLE!

The 'hands' workbox is part of the 'safe body' series, which will be extended in the time to come to include subjects such as eyes and feet. Other workboxes are also being prepared. 'Almost 30% of the accidents at Boskalis involve injuries to hands and that is why the hands workbox was developed first. The contents are largely based on the lessons learned at Boskalis,' say SHE-Q managers Allard Leertouwer (Subsea Contracting, Offshore Energy division) and Michael Evertsz (Area West, Dredging & Inland Infra division), who were present at the outset of the new approach. 'The workbox has been developed as a tool that will allow our colleagues on the vessels or projects to make immediate improvements to the safety of their working environment. The focus is very much on practice,' says Allard. 'A special feature of the approach is that it is designed to allow the sessions to be run without supervision from SHE-Q colleagues. We have developed a 'train the facilitator' module to make that possible. It supplies managers with the information they need to run the sessions on their own and in their own working environment. Not only does that boost support, it has an additional advantage in that the sessions, which take two hours on average, can be organized at any convenient time.' Michael adds: 'Of course, SHE-Q is still willing to provide supervision for workbox sessions. The sessions are optional but we have seen a lot of positive responses and increasing interest. Area West has decided to organize workbox sessions on all our projects.'

VULNERABLE

All the sessions start with a *safe mind* component that puts the spotlight on the risks of a routine approach to work. It points out the importance of a last-minute assessment which is known as the 'YES scan': check Yourself, Equipment and Surroundings. The workbox sessions place an additional emphasis on



this basic component of the NINA program. Another important element is storytelling. Mark de Bruijn, a works manager on the Taurus II, explains: 'This part of the program is introduced by a video in which one of our

colleagues tells us quite openly how he lost part of his finger, and about the impact that has had on his life and his work. It certainly makes you think!' Following on from this introduction, the participants are asked to

Early this year, the 'safe body – hands' workbox was added to the NINA program. It is the first in a practical series of interactive workshops focusing on safety. The colleagues on the projects and vessels who have participated have been enthusiastic in their response. Not only do the sessions produce concrete results immediately, they also lead to solidarity and teambuilding.



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'THE APPROACH IS GEARED TO RUNNING THE SESSIONS WITHOUT SUPERVISION FROM SHE-Q COLLEAGUES.'

ALLARD LEERTOUWER, SHE-Q MANAGER SUBSEA CONTRACTING

say something about their own experiences with hand injuries. Participants who have suffered hand injuries are asked to put a sticker with their name on the appropriate part of the large hand on the Keep your Touch poster. That reminds themselves, and the members of the group, how vulnerable their hands are.

CAUSES

The next step involves explanations and group discussions about the main causes of accidents. The causes are broken down into six categories: safe mind, good behavior, good housekeeping, safe use of tools, wear appropriate PPE and safeguarding. Armed with this knowledge, the participants then work in groups to identify possible risks in their own working environments. The groups are established in such a way that the participants primarily inspect those parts of their working environment with which they are less familiar. They identify unsafe situations and also keep an eye out for distractions that can interfere with the concentration the job requires. When they get back, the participants record their observations on a specially developed action poster where they can also state

the category of a particular risk. Together, they try to devise possible actions or solutions that can mitigate or eliminate the risk.

SOLIDARITY

'Thanks to the openness and the exchange of personal experiences, the workbox sessions are not only very educational, they are also fascinating and enjoyable,' says Michael. 'The sessions bring colleagues

closer together. And the group spirit is boosted even more by the fact that the program can be organized independently in their own circle.' A good example is the approach on the hopper dredger Gemma (see also page 22). Captain Andries Kelderhuis, who has had an accident affecting his hand himself, believes this is a very important area and he has an inspiring story to tell. 'After I had introduced the workbox on the Gemma in French Guiana, Andries organized a second session on his own for the new team when they came on board,' says Michael. 'Obviously, his personal commitment made these sessions particularly impressive.'

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01 WORKBOX
A photo taken at a recent workbox session in Brazil.