



## HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE-RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

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### CRANE - HELICOPTER OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

#### Background

Historical experience has shown that catastrophic consequences can occur when industry safe practices for crane - helicopter operations are not observed. The following recommended practices will minimize risks during crane and helicopter operations.

#### Recommended Practice

1. Personnel awareness:
  - (a) Crane operators and pilots should develop a mutual understanding and respect of the others' operational limitations and cooperate in the spirit of safety;
  - (b) Pilots need to be aware that crane operators sometimes cannot release the load to cradle the crane boom, such as when attached to wireline lubricators or supporting diving bells; and
  - (c) Crane operators need to be aware that helicopters require warm up before takeoff, a 2 minute cool down before shutdown, and cannot circle for extended lengths of time because of fuel consumption.
2. 

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT WHEN HELICOPTERS ARE APPROACHING, MANEUVERING, TAKING OFF, OR RUNNING ON THE HELIPORT, CRANES BE SHUTDOWN AND THE OPERATOR LEAVE THE CAB. Cranes not in use shall have their booms cradled, if feasible. If in use, the crane's boom(s) are to be pointed away from the heliport and the crane shutdown for helicopter operations.
3. Pilots will not approach, land on, takeoff or have rotor blades turning on heliports of structures not complying with the above practice.
4. It is recommended that cranes on offshore platforms, rigs, vessels, or any other facility, which could interfere with helicopter operations (including approach/departure paths):
  - (a) Be equipped with a red rotating beacon or red high intensity strobe light connected to the system powering the crane, indicating the crane is under power;
  - (b) Be designed to allow the operator a maximum view of the helideck area and should be equipped with wide-angle mirrors to eliminate blind spots; and
  - (c) Paint crane boom tips, headache balls, and hooks with high visibility international orange.