



# Safety Notice

## Exhaust Gases in Lifeboats

### PURPOSE

This Safety Notice highlights a safety issue with the possible buildup of Carbon Monoxide, Nitrogen Dioxide and other dangerous gasses in Totally Enclosed Motor Propelled Survival Craft (TEMPSC).

### BACKGROUND

We are aware of instances where carbon monoxide gas was detected in TEMPSC when engines were run for an extended period. We are also aware of an incident where passengers in a TEMPSC likely suffered from exposure to dangerous concentrations of the gas. The probability of developing significant concentrations of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide or other dangerous gas in a properly maintained lifeboat is low. However, given the tightly enclosed nature of TEMPSC, the proximity of engines and exhaust systems to passengers, the large number of persons, who could be exposed in an emergency and the inability to ventilate the space in an emergency, the risk must be considered.

### LEGISLATION

- *Draft Petroleum Occupational Safety and Health Regulations – Offshore Newfoundland - Part 10*
- *CNSOPB Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Occupational Health & Safety Requirements – Element 2, Part 10*

### ACTION REQUIRED

- *Operators must ensure that the engines, exhaust systems and associated gaskets, lagging and insulation of all TEMPSC are properly maintained, inspected and tested to preclude the leakage of carbon monoxide and other gases into the boat.*
- *Operators must ensure that maintenance procedures for all TEMPSC include appropriate tests and air sampling to ensure that exposure to carbon monoxide, and other exhaust gases will not exceed legislative requirements should personnel be required to evacuate the installation and spend an extended period in a TEMPSC. We note that Engines must be run for sufficient periods to allow for valid tests.*
- *Operators must ensure that tests are completed and sampling done under the supervision of a qualified person and that testing and sampling protocols, including equipment, frequency, duration, etc are approved by an industrial hygienist or other equally qualified person.*

This notice shall be posted onboard installations, which are operating under authorizations issued by the C-NLOPB or the CNSOPB. Questions regarding this Safety Notice may be directed to a Safety Officer at the addresses shown below.

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