



STEP CHANGE IN SAFETY

Well Engineering



RIG FLOOR SAFETY

Power Tongs

To all Managers of Drilling and Workover Operations

In an effort to reduce injuries while handling POWER TONGS, the UKOOA/IADC DRILLING SAFETY GROUP are recommending a set of six simple inexpensive modifications to these tongs. These are not meant to be a COMPLETE SET of recommendations to reduce these kind of accidents, but they can be QUICKLY, EASILY AND CHEAPLY put in place and will help to IMMEDIATELY CUT DOWN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS involving POWER TONGS. Long term recommendations are in the process of being drawn up, which will be available later on in the year. There is a laminate poster¹ to accompany this note entitled "POWER TONGS", this poster can be used to raise the awareness of power tong safety and facilitate toolbox talks and pre job risk assessments.

Please display this poster in prominent areas offshore and onshore

Please include these requirements in any contract involving the use of power tongs, and in any audit of casing or tubing operations.

C. Mearns, STEP CHANGE Drilling Safety Group Chairman

Power Tong Safety

1. PINCH POINTS
All Pinch Point areas should be marked with Black and Yellow stripes.
2. HAND HOLDS
All Hand Holds should be suitably guarded to protect fingers against crushing with other metal objects. Where this is not possible they should be fitted with "soft grip" covers.
3. WEB HANDLES²
Web Handles should be used for manoeuvring tongs on and off pipe.
4. SAFE AREAS
All hand holds should be coloured green.
5. WORKING AT HEIGHT
Where casing slips are required, Flush Mounted Slips should be used.
6. SAFETY INTERLOCKS
Safety Interlocks should be fitted to prevent the operations of the tong when the jaws are open.

For further information contact E. Cowell, Tel. 01224 883902

1. Posters are available from ODL, Aberdeen, Tel. 01224 628023, (Email: Info@odl.co.uk)

2. Web Handlers are available from T. Morrow Ltd, Aberdeen, Tel. 01224 481003, (Email: kbrm53@dial.pipex.com)



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RIG FLOOR SAFETY

Manual Tongs

To all Managers of Drilling and Workover Operations

In an effort to reduce injuries while handling MANUAL TONGS, the UKOOA/IADC DRILLING SAFETY GROUP are recommending a set of DOs and DON'Ts. These recommendations can be QUICKLY, EASILY AND CHEAPLY put in place and will help to IMMEDIATELY CUT DOWN THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS involving MANUAL TONGS. Long term recommendations are in the process of being drawn up, which will be available later on in the year. There are two laminated posters¹ to accompany this note entitled "MANUAL TONGS – COLOUR CODING FOR SAFER OPERATION" and "MANUAL TONGS – DOs and DON'Ts".

MANUAL TONGS – COLOUR CODING FOR SAFER OPERATION

Pinch points are the main cause of injury when using MANUAL TONGS. This poster shows how the parts of a manual tong can be colour coded to help remind the operator of the safe operation of the tong. Using incident data and tips from experience users all pinch point areas have been painted black and yellow. All hand holds have been painted green. This is a similar colour scheme to that proposed for power tongs.

MANUAL TONGS – DOs AND DON'Ts

This poster shows the basic five DOs and DON'Ts of MANUAL TONG use. The same points are listed in a more detailed list attached to this note.

Please display this poster in prominent areas offshore and onshore

Please include these requirements in any contract involving the use of power tongs, and in any audit of casing or tubing operations.

C. Mearns, STEP CHANGE Drilling Safety Group Chairman



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Manual Tong Safety DOs

1. **TRAINING AND COMPETENCY**
Personnel should be trained correctly from first exposure. Reduce the speed of operation for trainees. Develop and keep a competency log.
2. **RISK ASSESSMENTS**
Hold a risk assessment and toolbox talk prior to any use of manual tongs, especially if they are not regularly used. (Include: handling techniques, experience level of operators and reliefs, equipment monitoring, pinch points, operator position, position of other equipment, weather conditions.)
3. **EQUIPMENT CHECKS**
Fully check equipment before use. (Include: snub lines, shackles, tong line pin, tong balance, counter weight operation, dies, movement of latches, racking point). Service the tong regularly.
4. **SAFE AREAS**
Grip the tong by the designated handling points. These should be coloured green. Rack the tong correctly before turning away. Look out for other restrictions near the tong.

DONT's

1. **DO NOT PLACE HANDS INCORRECTLY**
Do not place hands on the top of the log, or in any the areas marked black and yellow.
2. **DO NOT ALLOW POOR COMPETENCY**
Drillers should not allow an individual to continue working with tongs, when despite training their competency fails to improve. Set high standards and maintain them.
3. **DO NOT ASSIST THE TONG**
Do not try to assist biting by placing the hand near the latch head. This is a pinch point. It is not necessary to assist a well maintained and balanced tong.
4. **DON'T CREATE TRIP HAZARDS**
Do not step over any of the tong lines after the tongs are latched. To reduce the chances of snagging, keep the area around the lines clear of equipment such as slips and dog collars.
5. **DON'T RACK INCORRECTLY**
Do not place hands at the same level as the racking point.

For further information contact E. Cowell, Tel. 01224 883902