



**Product title:** Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader Initial Training Standard

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**Product code:** 7042

**Product type:** OPITO Standard

**Product category:** Oil and Gas / Specialist Emergency Response / Helideck and Emergency Response Teams

**Date of last update:** 26/06/2024 - Updated Product spec released with date of implementation 19/09/2024  
19/07/2024 – Following the formal review of the OPITO Helideck Training and Competence Formal Review 2023 the updated Product spec has been released with date of implementation 19/09/2024. Please refer to OPITO Helideck Training and Competence Formal Review outcomes document within the document tab in the HUB for full details of changes.

### Who is the Product for?

This Product is for personnel who are to be appointed to the role of a Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader (HERTL).

Training and competence assessment of OPITO-approved Helideck Emergency Response Team Leaders (HERTLs) will comprise both onshore training and offshore workplace training and assessment. This Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader (HERTL) Training Product forms part of a wider industry Helideck Training and Competence Framework including helideck operations initial training, helideck emergency response team member and team leader initial/further training and associated helideck role workplace competence assessment standards. Further information on the wider industry Helideck Training and Competence Framework is depicted in Helideck Training and Competence Framework - See supporting document

Appointment of HERTMs and HERTLs

The Installation, MODU or vessel Duty Holder is responsible for ensuring that personnel appointed to Helideck Emergency Response Team Member (HERTM) and Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader (HERTL) roles have received sufficient training and gained relevant experience to undertake the role(s) competently and safely.

The Duty Holder must ensure that, apart from the provision of onshore training:

- a) Workplace training is provided and workplace competence assessment is conducted,  
AND
- b) Additional Training - e.g. Dangerous Goods by Air Awareness (DGbA), radio operator's certificate of competence (HERTL only), helicopter refueling (where required) and meteorological/weather reporting training (where required by duty holder) additional helideck operations initial training (where they have been out of the role for 3 or more years) is provided before the HERTL or HERTM is appointed to the role(s).

OPITO-certified HERTL Training

(1) The HERTL Initial Training will be conducted at an onshore training centre

(2) The HERTL Further Training – this programme involves updating and refreshing relevant

knowledge and undertaking practical emergency response training in the HERTL role not able to be

conducted offshore. HERTL candidates will also undertake further practical training in the HERTM role during the practical exercises where they are not required to perform the role as HERTL

### **What does this Product cover?**

The aim and objectives of the Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader Training programme are:

- (1) HERTLs to understand the importance of pre-planning for and the main elements of the response requirement for a range of helideck and helicopter emergencies.
- (2) HERTLs to understand the importance of emergency response practice via onshore training and offshore drills.
- (3) HERTLs to understand the requirement for different types of emergency response systems and controls.
- (4) Understand how the limited emergency response capability on an NUI can affect NUI helideck emergency response.
- (5) The roles and responsibilities of both the HERTL and the Helideck Emergency Response Team during a helicopter-related emergency.
- (6) Understanding the human factors issues during emergencies and how to manage them.
- (7) Leading the Helideck Emergency Response Team during a range of typical helideck simulated emergency scenarios – some of which involve live fires, in a safe and controlled manner.

### **How can you successfully achieve this Product?**

To achieve the Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader Training the learner will need to complete the 3 mandatory units.

### **What could this Product lead to?**

Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader Further Training

### **What are the entry requirements?**

The prerequisites for this training programme are:

- a) A valid OPITO Helideck Operations Initial Training certificate or a valid Offshore Helideck Assistant (HDA) Initial Training Certificate or a valid Offshore Helicopter Landing Officer (HLO) Training Certificate

AND

- b) A valid OPITO Helideck Emergency Response Team Member Certificate or a valid Helideck Emergency Response Team Member Further Certificate

AND

- c) A valid Radio Operators Certificate of Competence (ROCC) – UKCS Operations only

OR

- d) A valid Helideck Emergency Response Team Member Further Certificate and a valid Radio Operators Certificate of Competence (ROCC) – UKCS Operations only and delegates must have completed Dangerous Goods by Air training course in accordance with Part 1 of the ICAO Technical Instructions and sub section 1.5

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of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations, Category 7, 8 or 9 or state aviation approved dangerous goods awareness training course

**If a learner holds a valid Helideck Emergency Response Team Member (HERTM) OR Helideck Emergency Response Team Member Further (HERTM – F) OR Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader (HERTL) OR Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader Further (HERTL – F) certificate then there will be no requirement to complete the Helideck Operations Initial Training Standard**

### **Medical entry requirements**

Training activities contained within this Product may include physically demanding and potentially stressful elements. All personnel who participate in such activities must be capable of participating fully.

Therefore, OPITO-approved training centres are required, as a minimum, to ensure that prior to participating in practical exercises the learner is declared fit, in that they

- a) Possess a valid, current offshore medical certificate or
- b) Possess an operator approved medical certificate,

And

- c) Undergo medical screening by completing an appropriate medical screening form provided by the OPITO-approved Centre

The OPITO-approved Centre shall keep a record of the learners' declaration(s) of fitness in accordance with their document control policy(s) or procedures. This information, along with summary details of the type of physical activities the delegate/candidate will be asked to perform, will be given to learners by the OPITO approved Centre and, if applicable, to their sponsoring company as part of the joining instructions. The responsibility for declaring any current or pre-existing medical conditions that could have adverse effects to the individual's state of health while undertaking the training and/or assessment activities lies with the learner and/or company sponsoring the learner. Where doubt exists regarding the fitness of any learner, the OPITO-approved Centre must direct the individual to consult a medical officer familiar with the nature and extent of the training.

Note: Practical exercises must be designed and delivered solely to meet this Product and must not place on the learners any demands other than those required to meet the Product.

### **Country Specific if applicable?**

N/A

### **How is this Product assessed?**

Learners will be assessed against the outcomes specified in accordance with the assessment guidance detailed in each unit.

### **Are there and ratios that must be adhered to for the delivery of this Product?**

The **minimum** number of learners attending this programme is 4 and the maximum number is 12.

The following ratios specify the maximum number of learners that must be supervised by one instructor at any one time during each training event.

Theory 1:12

Demonstration 1:12

Practical Exercises 1:6

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**Note:** For the HERTM, HERTM Further Training, HERTL and HERTL Further Training programmes, the maximum delegate numbers and theory ratio may be exceeded to accommodate company/installation emergency response teams. However practical supervision ratios must not be exceeded.

## What are the Guided Learning Hours?

26 hours Note: For the HERTM, HERTM Further Training, HERTL and HERTL Further Training programmes, the guided learning hours may differ to accommodate company/installation emergency response teams. However all other requirements of the Product must be met, unless stated otherwise.

## What staff resources are required to deliver this Product?

### Staff

Instructional staff must:

- (a) Fully understand the requirements of this industry standard.
- (b) Have been trained in training delivery and training assessment techniques.
- (c) Hold an industry-recognised assessor qualification.
- (d) Participate in an ongoing training and development programme which ensures that they are aware and knowledgeable of relevant industry requirements and changes to requirements.
- (e) Possess occupational experience in firefighting and practical knowledge of helicopter emergency response operations

All staff will have the appropriate competencies to conduct or assist (as appropriate) with the element of training being undertaken.

OPITO Centres must have an auditable training programme in place to ensure instructors keep up-to-date with relevant current offshore practices and changes. The programme must include at least two of the following: visit(s) to offshore fixed or mobile installations, visit(s) to heliports, visit(s) to dry-docked rigs that have helidecks.

## What facilities and equipment are required to deliver this Product?

### Facilities

For details of facility and equipment, please refer to OPITO Standards Heli-training Facility and Equipment Specification Document

### First Aid Facilities

Appropriate first aid facilities and equipment as specified in the training centre's risk assessments, and sufficient staff trained in the use of the facilities and equipment.

All facilities must be maintained and where appropriate, inspected and tested in accordance with current standards/legislation and manufacturers recommendations.

Risk assessments must be conducted and documented for all training facilities and equipment.

### Equipment

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Equipment used during practical exercises must be of a type in use regionally on offshore oil and gas installation/vessel helidecks.

For details of facility and equipment, please refer to OPITO Standards Heli-training Facility and Equipment Specification Document

All equipment must be maintained, and where appropriate, inspected and tested in accordance with current standards/legislation, guidance and manufacturers recommendations.

## What is the validity of this Product?

2 years

Please note: If the expiry date on the learners previous certificate is within 90 days prior of the course enrolment date then the date of the new certificate should correspond with the expiry date of the existing/previous certificate unless stated otherwise by the Duty Holder or Asset Owner or Operator.

## Product Summary

### Product Structure:

To achieve the Helideck Emergency Response Team Leader Training the learner will need to complete the 3 mandatory units.

Unit Code	Unit Title
OIS-25	Helideck Emergency Response Preparedness
OIS-197	NUI HERTL Emergency Response
OIS-26	Leading and Controlling Helideck Emergency Response

## Unit Summary

Unit Code	OIS-25
Title	Helideck Emergency Response Preparedness
Guided Learning Hours	See GLH at Product level
Assessment Guidance	Centres must ensure that learners receive all theoretical learning specified in each Unit Outcome prior to any practical assessment taking place.  Centres must also be able to demonstrate that learners have achieved an understanding of the information and concepts detailed in each of the Unit Outcomes. This may be achieved through a variety of methods, including but not limited to: group or individual discussion, verbal or written questioning, scenarios, virtual simulation, and eLearning.
Assessment/Evidence Requirements	Records of assessment referencing all outcomes, must be securely maintained.

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OUTCOMES	CRITERIA
<p>1 <b>Outcome: Define the role and key responsibilities of a HERTL</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>1.1 The role and key responsibilities of a HERTL</p> <p>1.2 The requirement for helicopter emergency response pre-planning</p> <p>1.3 The main elements of a helicopter emergency response plan</p>
<p>2 <b>Outcome: State the main elements of helideck emergency response plan</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>2.1 Examples of emergency scenarios involving helicopter operations and typical response requirement of HERTL and HERTMs to the emergency, to include:</p> <p>2.1.1 helicopter crash on deck (with or without fuel spillage)</p> <p>2.1.2 engine fire on helicopter</p> <p>2.1.3 offshore installation or vessel fire</p> <p>2.1.4 fire during helicopter refuelling operations</p> <p>2.1.5 aviation fuel skid fire</p> <p>2.1.6 an emergency or precautionary landing on the helideck</p> <p>2.1.7 an attempted wheels-up landing</p> <p>2.1.8 evacuation and emergency movement by helicopters (e.g. medevac)</p> <p>2.1.9 helicopter use for man overboard</p>
<p>3 <b>Outcome: Identify typical organisations involved in a helicopter emergency response</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>3.1 How typical organisations are involved in a helicopter emergency e.g. Coastguard</p>
<p>4 <b>Outcome: Identify types of potential offshore helideck emergencies</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>4.1 Events that may severely impact on flight safety, to include:</p> <p>4.1.1 aviation fuel contamination</p> <p>4.1.2 obstructed helideck</p>

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	<p>4.1.3 wrong deck landing (wrong installation)</p> <p>4.1.4 installation, MODU or vessel status changes with helicopter on deck</p>
<p><b>Outcome: State the general firefighting safety goals and objectives</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>5.1 Helideck general firefighting safety goals and objectives and how to achieve them.</p> <p>5.2 Offshore and onshore helicopter emergency response practice: offshore drills and onshore fire and non-fire training practice</p>
<p><b>Outcome: Explain the purpose of typical helideck emergency systems and controls</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>6.1 Typical helideck fixed firefighting equipment and systems, to include:</p> <p>6.1.1 foam producing equipment performance requirements:</p> <p>6.1.2 speed of response of producing foam</p> <p>6.1.3 reliability– through weekly tests and maintenance routines</p> <p>6.1.4 coverage</p> <p>6.1.5 quality of the foam.</p> <p>6.1.6 performance Standards</p> <p>6.2 Deck Integrated Firefighting Systems (DIFFS)</p> <p>6.3 Typical helideck mobile firefighting equipment and systems</p> <p>6.4 Typical helideck rescue equipment</p> <p>6.5 Helicopter emergency systems and controls that can be initiated by the HERTL and the HERTMs to include helicopter;</p> <p>6.5.1 engine shutdown</p> <p>6.5.2 fuel isolation</p> <p>6.5.3 fixed firefighting and protection systems (onboard helicopters)</p>

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Unit Code	OIS-197
Title	NUI HERTL Emergency Response
Guided Learning Hours	See GLH at Product level
Assessment Guidance	<p>Centres must ensure that learners receive all theoretical learning specified in each Unit Outcome prior to any practical assessment taking place.</p> <p>Centres must also be able to demonstrate that learners have achieved an understanding of the information and concepts detailed in each of the Unit Outcomes. This may be achieved through a variety of methods, including but not limited to: group or individual discussion, verbal or written questioning, scenarios, virtual simulation, and eLearning.</p>
Assessment/Evidence Requirements	Records of assessment referencing all outcomes, must be securely maintained.

OUTCOMES	CRITERIA
<p>1 <b>Outcome: Explain the main differences between helideck emergency response on a main fixed or floating installation and a normally unattended installation (NUI)</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>1.1 Planning for emergencies on an NUI with limited emergency response capability, to include:</p> <p>1.1.1 helicopter on deck, and</p> <p>1.1.2 no helicopter on deck.</p> <p>1.2 NUI Rescue, firefighting equipment and extinguishant media requirements</p> <p>1.3 Typical limited NUI accommodation – if personnel onboard NUI have to stay beyond expected duration</p> <p>1.4 First aid arrangements on NUI</p> <p>1.5 Evacuation from NUI if no helicopter is available</p> <p>1.6 Importance of understanding and following individual company procedures relating to NUI</p> <p>1.7 Emergency response requirements</p>

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Unit Code	OIS-26
Title	Leading and Controlling Helideck Emergency Response
Guided Learning Hours	22 hours
Assessment Guidance	<p><b>Assessment Guidance for Outcome 1 - 4</b></p> <p>Centres must ensure that learners receive all theoretical learning specified in each Unit Outcome prior to any practical assessment taking place.</p> <p>Centres must also be able to demonstrate that learners have achieved an understanding of the information and concepts detailed in each of the Unit Outcomes. This may be achieved through a variety of methods, including but not limited to: group or individual discussion, verbal or written questioning, scenarios, virtual simulation, and eLearning.</p> <p><b>Assessment Guidance for Outcomes 5-7</b></p> <p>Centres must ensure that learners receive all theoretical learning specified in each Outcome prior to any practical assessment taking place.</p> <p>Following theoretical learning and demonstration of practical exercises by the centre, learners will be observed undertaking practical exercises covering all the criteria specified.</p> <p>Learners must successfully complete all practical exercises in order to achieve this Unit.</p> <p>Practical elements must be covered, using appropriate combinations of all of the following scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Helicopter incident resulting in crash/overtaken aircraft involving fire/no fire</li> <li>(b) Engine fire</li> <li>(c) Fuel Spill during refuelling operations resulting in fire/no fire</li> <li>(d) Emergency/precautionary landing</li> <li>(e) Responding to Class A fires caused by helicopter incident</li> <li>(f) Responding to *Class B fires (flammable liquid spill and leaking fuel fires) caused by helicopter Incident</li> <li>(g) Rescue from an overturned aircraft</li> <li>(h) Internal fire fighting</li> <li>(i) Responding to a helicopter incident off the helideck</li> <li>(j) Loss of fire main/pressure</li> </ul> <p>Note:*Class B fires: For environmental purposes, smoke suppression or clean-burn systems are acceptable for reducing smoke during Class B fire exercises</p>
Assessment/Evidence Requirements	Records of assessment referencing all outcomes, must be securely maintained.

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OUTCOMES	CRITERIA
<p>1 <b>Outcome: Human factors affecting emergency response</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>1.1 Human factors during emergency response including:</p> <p>1.1.1 stress affecting decision making in self and team</p> <p>1.1.2 physical limitations of self and team</p> <p>1.1.3 sources of assistance available during emergency events</p>
<p>2 <b>Outcome: Emergency response hazards, equipment and controls</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>2.1 Potential aircraft hazards during the emergency response, to include:</p> <p>2.1.1 fire</p> <p>2.1.2 electrical</p> <p>2.1.3 helicopter composition materials</p> <p>2.1.4 dangerous goods cargo</p> <p>2.1.5 flotation devices</p> <p>2.2 Issues to consider if helicopter requires securing on helideck</p> <p>2.3 Emergency Response PPE requirements for HERTM and HERTL</p> <p>2.4 How different helicopter types can affect the emergency response</p> <p>2.5 Awareness and understanding of back up crew during protracted incident, including HERTL deputising arrangements</p> <p>2.6 Relevant equipment and controls - helideck and helicopter</p> <p>2.7 Monitoring of environmental conditions and how they may impact on the emergency response</p> <p>2.8 Effective communications with all relevant ER personnel</p>

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	<p>2.9 The principles of dynamic risk assessment during an emergency situation</p> <p>2.10 Emergency response arrangements.</p>
<p>3 <b>Outcome: Firefighting equipment used in emergency response</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>3.1 Breathing apparatus operation, control and monitoring air consumption procedures</p> <p>3.2 Firefighting equipment: guidance on when and where to use various media</p>
<p>4 <b>Outcome: Search and rescue principles involved in emergency response</b></p> <p><b>The learner will understand:</b></p>	<p>4.1 Search and rescue (SAR) principles and techniques – on or close to the helideck, following helicopter incident on helideck.</p>
<p>5 <b>Outcome: Leading effective emergency response to incidents on or around a Helideck</b></p> <p><b>The learner will perform:</b></p>	<p>5.1 Emergency access and egress to and from helidecks including clear, concise and effective communications with all relevant ER personnel</p> <p>5.2 Direct the helideck team in a clear and confident manner during emergencies including the correct selection of appropriate fire-fighting equipment for the incident</p> <p>5.3 Direct entry to the incident area in a controlled manner – continually assessing how the changes in the emergency could impact on the safety of the HERT members, maintaining a means of escape from the incident area</p> <p>5.4 Effective delegation of emergency response tasks to team members</p> <p>5.5 Appropriate response to non-firefighting operations during helicopter incident</p> <p>5.6 Utilise back-up ER Team via the Team Leader (this only requires briefing the back-up team leader).</p>

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	<p>5.7 Conduct dynamic risk assessment during the emergency situation and obtaining feedback against the plan</p> <p>5.8 Continually monitor human factors during emergency response including;</p> <p>5.8.1 stress affecting decision making in self and team</p> <p>5.8.2 physical limitations of self and team</p>
<p>6 <b>Outcome: Leading firefighting activities during an emergency response</b></p> <p><b>The learner will perform:</b></p>	<p>6.1 Ensure correct donning, using and control monitoring air consumption of breathing apparatus (BA) of HERT members (all learners to practice correct donning, using and control monitoring air consumption of the BA)</p> <p>6.2 Control helicopter incident firefighting operations, to include responding to a helicopter engine fire using a CO2 media extended applicator</p> <p>6.3 Ensuring effective use of firefighting fixed, portable and mobile systems, including fixed fire monitors, dry chemical and CO2 fire extinguishment and control media</p> <p>6.4 Hose-running techniques and associated hazards</p> <p>6.5 Respond to a NUI helideck fire (with limited firefighting equipment)</p>
<p>7 <b>Outcome: Executing search and rescue activities</b></p> <p><b>The learner will perform:</b></p>	<p>7.1 Effective search and rescue (SAR) principles and techniques – on or close to the helideck, locating, extracting and handling missing personnel and casualties following a helicopter incident on the helideck</p> <p>Missing persons and casualty management, to include:</p> <p>7.2 7.2.1 prioritizing</p> <p>7.2.2 accounting for missing personnel</p>

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## Links

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