**Marine transfer**

The preferred method of transporting personnel offshore in the North Sea is by helicopter. However, sometimes exceptional circumstances mean helicopters are unavailable and other methods of transfer may be explored, such as personnel transfer device.

**What it involves**

Transport to the installation is provided by a suitable vessel. Personnel are strapped in to a transfer capsule and lifted by crane from the vessel to the installation. Modern transfer devices have an array of safety features to protect passengers.

**What you need to know**

- It is **safe**. There is an abundance of guidance and regulation around how crane transfers should be safely carried out.
- Crane transfer is used **frequently and safely** in other parts of the world – particularly in Canada where sea states and weather conditions can be as challenging as the North Sea and fog frequently prevents helicopter transfer.
- Somewhere between **5 and 10 million** crane transfers are carried out each year around the world. Operators following current best practice report very low levels of incidents.
- The global leaders in crane transfers are also based in Aberdeen – therefore there is an existing base of **expertise and knowledge**, despite the practise being less common in the UKCS.
- You have the **right to say no** if you’re not comfortable with it.

**Think a lot less like this…**

...and a lot more like this

**Find out more**

Step Change in Safety has established a workgroup, focusing on the safe transfer of personnel offshore by means other than helicopter. The group will initially look at pulling together existing guidance and information to help companies safely plan transfers. [http://www.stepchangeinsafety.net/about/MarineTransfer.cfm](http://www.stepchangeinsafety.net/about/MarineTransfer.cfm)

The **10 Golden Rules** of crane transfer were put together by Reflex Marine, Sparrows and Seacor Marine - [http://www.reflexmarine.com/10-golden-rules.html](http://www.reflexmarine.com/10-golden-rules.html)