



Technical excellence: delivered

Forms Part of

Alderley



Case Study

Project Type: ATEX Inspection



Introduction

Our client, an international oil and gas company, operates multiple offshore assets in the North Sea. With thousands of Ex installations at each site, they had an asset management, inspection and compliance challenge.

The Challenge

The ATEX directive means operators must control or eliminate the risks associated with operations in potentially explosive atmospheres.

Accordingly, our client has a legal obligation to ensure all electrically powered Ex rated devices on their assets are maintained in compliance with IEC60079.

To ensure compliance, an initial 100% baseline 'close' inspection of all Ex equipment was required. In addition, a sample 10% of devices would be subject to a 'detailed' inspection. This is to ascertain any common failures that would prompt a more thorough assessment - which can only be found through the opening of enclosures, using specialist tools and test equipment.

However, with over 7,000 items of Ex equipment on just one of their North Sea installations, there was a significant data management challenge, as well as a need to ensure the effectiveness of the inspection.



The Solution

SMS' next generation inspection services, powered by our fully digital inspection tool; Inspection Manager™.

Using ATEX Zone 1 approved, intrinsically safe tablet devices to access Inspection Manager, SMS' CompEx certified inspectors were able to complete the 'close' and 'detailed' inspections in a timely and consistent manner.

With Inspection Manager, the inspector was able to input information and photos directly into an electronic reporting system - minimising time-consuming and costly administration tasks, and providing a secure and auditable inspection record.

With access to the Inspection Manager Client Portal, our client could track the inspection progress and feedback; enabling prompt fault identification and action to resolve any issues within a critical timescale - all of which was completed by the SMS Service team.

Furthermore, the inspection data was configured to integrate directly with our client's ERP system. This facilitated seamless transfer between Inspection Manager and their existing inspection and maintenance programme.

And as with all SMS services, the inspection campaign was supported by our specialist back-office team of experienced engineers and coordinators.



The Results

Over 5,000 items of Ex equipment have been inspected so far by SMS, with further offshore visits ongoing to complete all inspections on the installation.

Our client is extremely pleased with the progress and results. This has enabled them to fully comply with IEC60079, as well as save time and money by using SMS Inspection Services, powered by Inspection Manager.

As a result, we are now undertaking ATEX inspections on another of our client's operations in the North Sea.

