About the IADC Deepwater Well Control Guidelines

The IADC Deepwater Well Control Guidelines, 2nd Edition, was assembled by volunteer drilling-industry professionals with significant well-control expertise. These volunteers contributed their time, energy and knowledge in developing the IADC Deepwater Well Control Guidelines, 2nd edition, to help facilitate safe and efficient deepwater drilling operations.

The contents of this manual should not replace or take precedence over manufacturer, operator or individual drilling company recommendations, policies or procedures. In jurisdictions where the contents of the IADC Deepwater Well Control Guidelines might conflict with regional, state or national statute or regulation, IADC strongly advises adhering to local rules.

While IADC believes the information presented is accurate as of the date of publication, each reader is responsible for his own reliance, reasonable or otherwise, on the information presented. Readers should be aware that technology and practices advance quickly, and the subject matter discussed herein may quickly become surpassed. If professional engineering expertise is required, the services of a competent individual or firm should be sought. Neither IADC nor the contributors to these guidelines warrant or guarantee that application of any theory, concept, method or action described in this book will lead to the result desired by the reader.
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INTRODUCTION

Maintaining well control is critical to safe and successful drilling operations. This work, the 2nd edition of the IADC Deepwater Well Control Guidelines was authored by a task force of industry experts under the leadership of Louis Romo, BP, with guidance from Moe Plaisance, Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., executive advisor, who led the development of the original edition of this publication in 1998.

More than 80 subject matter experts representing drilling contractors, operators, service companies and equipment manufacturers participated in the update of these guidelines to develop a comprehensive document specific to subsea well control. This informative resource for safely managing well control risks addresses process safety & well integrity, well planning, equipment, training and drills, well control procedures and emergency response.

The new and revised content in the 2nd edition of the IADC Deepwater Well Control was developed by several work groups comprising volunteer subject matter experts.

This work comprises six chapters. Each is briefly described below, and the chairman of each group identified. Members of each committee are listed on the opening page of the chapter. For the user’s convenience, a complete list of acronyms and definitions used in the IADC Deepwater Well Control Guidelines is included as an appendix.

- Operational Risk Management and Well Integrity, James Hebert, Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., chairman: This chapter reviews concepts and terms for establishment, maintenance, and verification of barriers to prevent loss of well control and maintain well integrity. This overview provides context to the remaining sections of the guidelines and how these practices interact to prevent the loss of well control.

- Well Planning, Brian Tarr, Shell, chairman: The Well Planning chapter discusses concepts and guidelines to help the rig team understand the relevance of well planning and well design to well control.

- Equipment, Pete Bennett, Pacific Drilling Services, Inc., chairman: The Equipment chapter describes typical well control equipment employed on floating rigs.

- Well Control Procedures, Earl Robinson, Murphy Exploration and Production Co., chairman: The Procedures chapter covers a range of kick prevention, detection and mitigation measures to maintain well control.

- Training and Drills, Benny Mason, Rig QA International, chairman: The Training and Drills chapter provides guidance for planning, conducting, evaluating, and continuously improving rig-based well control training and drills.

- Emergency Response, John Garner, Boots & Coots, chairman: The Emergency Response chapter provides an overview of the activities and resources involved in preparation for and response to a well control emergency.

These guidelines are intended as an industry reference for rig personnel and as a framework to assist companies with their internal well control related processes and procedures.

IADC thanks the dedicated volunteers who developed this important work.