Civil Aviation Authority

Strategic review of offshore helicopter operations

Mark Swan

22 October 2013

Overview

- The CAA is absolutely committed to ensuring that offshore operations are as safe as possible.

- Recent accidents over the last few years have given rise to concerns, particularly among the offshore workers who rely so heavily on these helicopter flights.

- The review will thoroughly examine the risks and hazards of operating offshore and how these can be managed most effectively looking at all the main areas of safety.

Review Structure

- The review team is:
  - Undertaking a comprehensive review of all previous accident and incident documentation and safety reports
  - Reviewing the scope and development of current regulations and emerging technological advancements
  - Using expert judgment of the UK CAA, Norwegian CAA and EASA team
  - Consulting with the full range of offshore helicopter stakeholders

- The review will deliver:
  - A systematic analysis of safety performance
  - An assessment of current risks to performance
  - Gap analysis with the Norwegian CAA to identify best practice
  - Recommendations for improvements to safety

Review Team

- UK CAA
  - Directed by Mark Swan, Group Director Safety and Airspace Regulation Group
  - Led by Captain Robert Jones, Head of Flight Operations

- European Aviation Safety Agency

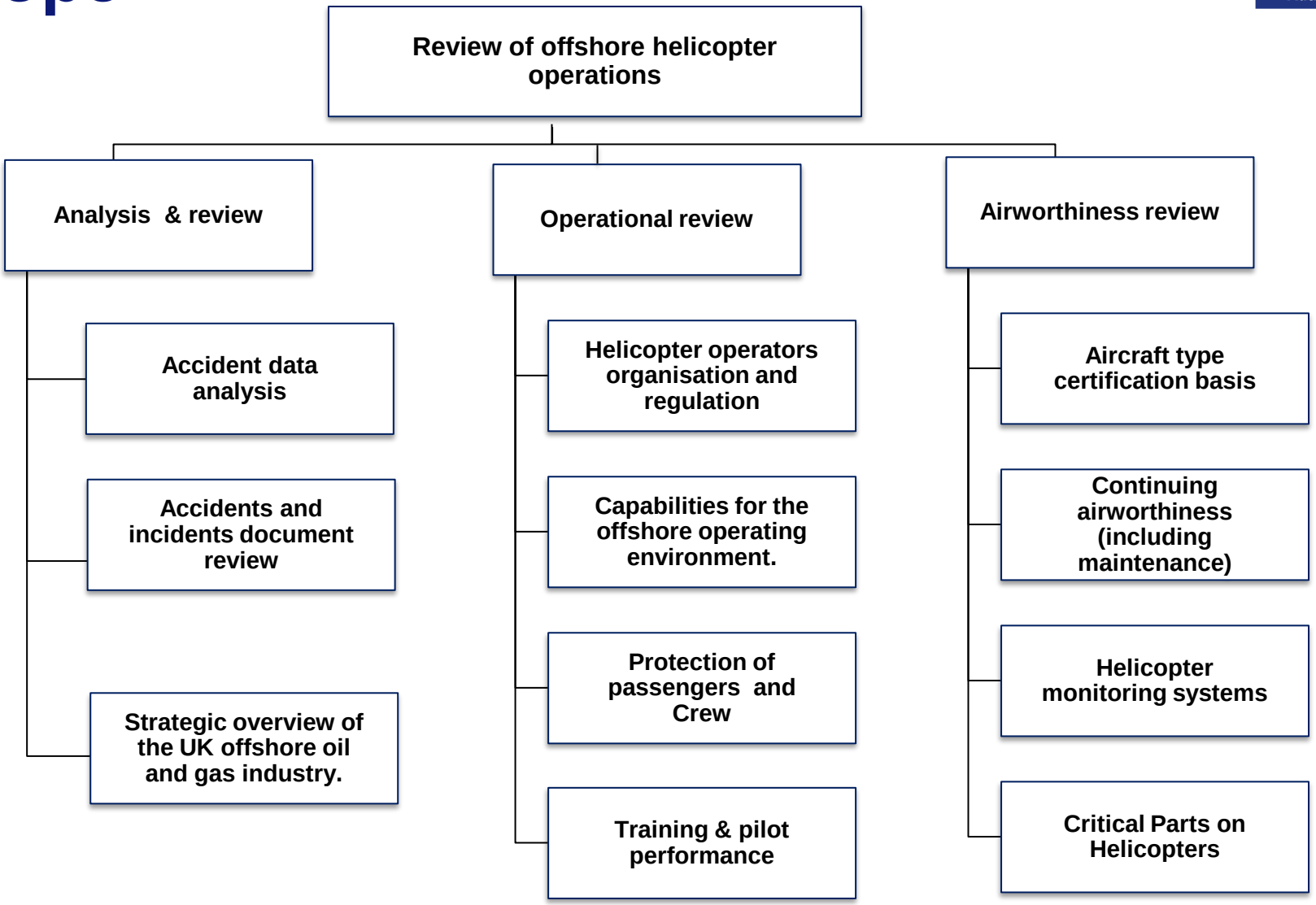
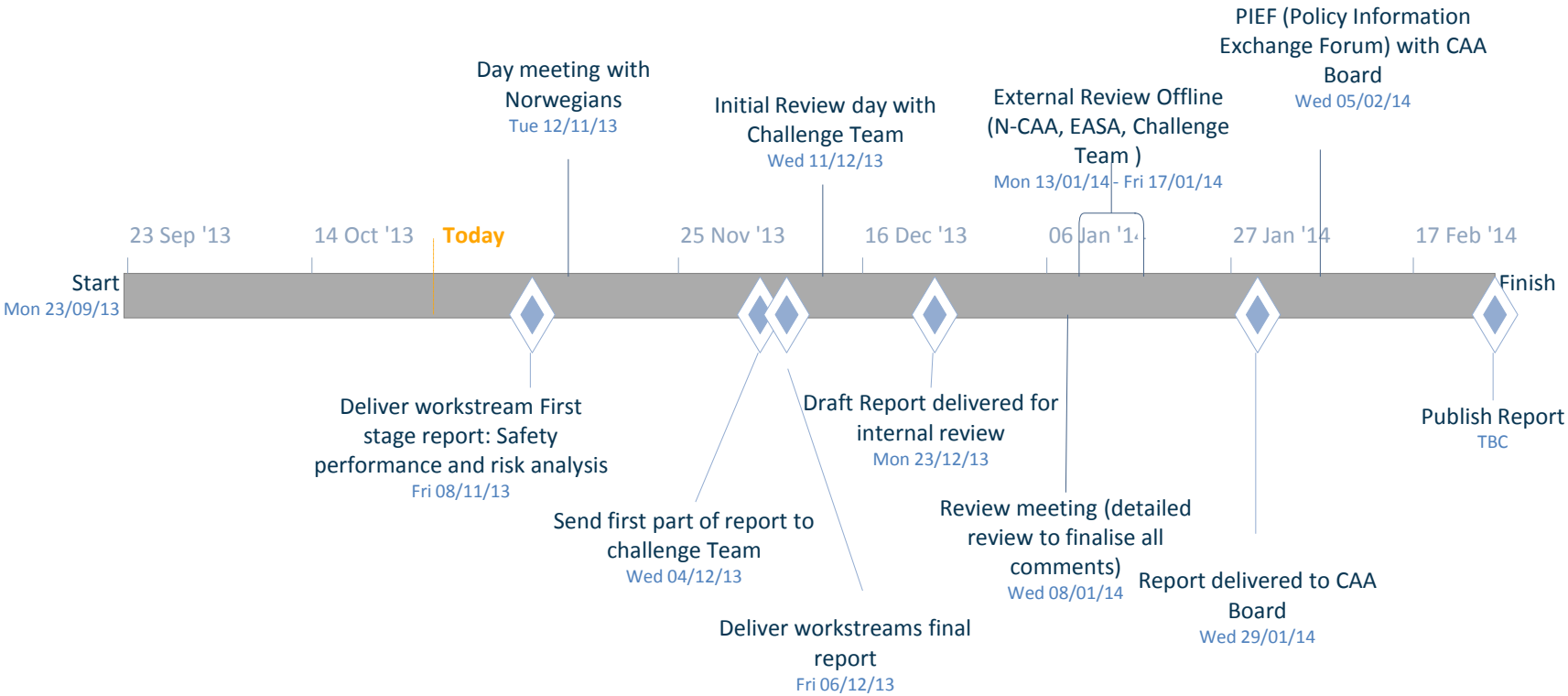
- Norwegian CAA
  - Parallel team led by Mr Geir Hamre, Head of Helicopter Safety

- External Challenge Team
  - R Adm Simon Charlier (Chair)
  - Gary Cox, Scottish Government
  - Jim Lyons, Independent expert
  - Peter Norton, CEO British Helicopter Association
  - Felipe Nascimento, Imperial College, London

Consultation

- Helicopter operators
- Unions
- Oil and gas industry representatives
- Government
- Other agencies

Scope


Review of offshore helicopter operations
Analysis & review
Accident data analysis
Accidents and incidents document review
Strategic overview of the UK offshore oil and gas industry.
Operational review
Helicopter operators organisation and regulation
Capabilities for the offshore operating environment.
Protection of passengers and Crew
Training & pilot performance
Airworthiness review
Aircraft type certification basis
Continuing airworthiness (including maintenance)
Helicopter monitoring systems
Critical Parts on Helicopters

Detailed Timeline