



OFFSHORE UPDATE

4 August 2011

OCA

The OCA 2011 ballot result has been accepted by an over 2:1 majority. The ballot result was as follows:

Votes in favour:	68% of votes cast
Votes against :	31% of votes cast
Spoilt papers:	1% of votes cast

The offer is backdated to April 1st 2011 and the OCA has informed their member companies, and hopefully the new rates and backdated monies will be paid as soon as practicable.

Two items were set aside for a working party to look into and I would be interested in your feedback on the following areas:-

- 1) Travelling Expenses: level of payments and whether taxed or otherwise.
- 2) 15th Day Working: what payments, if any, are paid ie: flying time.

UKDCA

The 2011 offer has been rejected by a majority of 55.5% against and 44.5% for. I have informed the UKDCA of the result and requested a further meeting with a view to improving the offer.

Supreme Court

The test cases which Unite is supporting were successful in the Employment Tribunal, establishing the right of offshore employees to take holiday under the Working Time Regulations at a time when they would otherwise be working offshore. However, the offshore employers successfully appealed to the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the Scottish senior appeal court (known as the Inner House). This means that, as the law currently stands, it is unfortunately the case that offshore employers can, in effect, require employees to take their holiday during field break time when they would not be working in any event. Unite is supporting an appeal to the UK Supreme Court (which replaced the House of Lords in Oct 2009) which due to be heard in October 2011, in the hope of overturning the judgment of the Employment Appeal Tribunal and the Inner House.

UKFPOA

The 2011 offer has been rejected and a further meeting will take place with Teekay and Maersk on August 11th, with a view to improving the offer.

PENSIONS

Offshore Workers and Auto enrolment - part of the Pension Act 2008 provision was that from 2012 companies of a certain size should auto enrol employees into a pension scheme.

At present employees have to opt into a pension scheme. Unfortunately the 2008 Act did not apply offshore.

We can report that further to Unite Officers meeting with the Department of Work and Pensions, lobbying politicians, secondary legislation will be made to allow Auto enrolment to apply offshore. For people without a company pension scheme this is an important change and should encourage a wider group of offshore workers to save for retirement.

If you have moved company or home address recently, please advise by 'phone on 01224 645271 or email angela.taylor@unitetheunion.org to allow us to amend our records.

JOIN UNITE THE UNION

by 'phoning 01224 645271 and request an application form

or join on line at www.unitetheunion.org

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Wallace".

WULLIE WALLACE
Regional Officer