

## **Summary: Allegation of False Training Certificates**

**Report Date: August 4, 2015**

OIG investigated allegations that a private company in Louisiana falsified training course certificates for personnel who conduct oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico. The allegation further stated that the private company failed to spend an adequate amount of time instructing its students on critical safety protocols.

During our investigation, we reviewed training records and consulted with Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) officials regarding the regulations and safety training requirements for offshore operations. Regulations require companies and contractors involved in offshore oil and gas operations to maintain a safety training plan and ensure that employees receive safety training. The regulations do not, however, specify time requirements for safety training courses.

We interviewed personnel who attended training provided by the private company, and everyone reported that all of their training certificates were true and accurate. We also toured the company's training facility, which appeared to have ample space and equipment. Company representatives reported that their instructors were certified by a third party company. We consulted with the third party certifier, who stated that they have a strict curriculum of safety courses and their certified instructors are evaluated and audited regularly.

We did not find any evidence that the company falsified training certifications as alleged. We provided a copy of the investigative report to BSEE for information only.

*This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on April 21, 2016.*

