

Technical Bulletin

Backloading of drill pipe



Rag removed from pin connection shows excessive corrosion on 'dry' seal face



Pipe 'as returned'. Missing protectors and still partially coated with water based mud.



Background

This drill string was backloaded from a rig working in the North Sea in 2015. The majority of the connections were shipped without proper thread protectors fitted.

Observations

It is apparent that none of the connections had been cleaned or doped during lay down. As the last well fluid the pipe saw was water based mud, the steel has already started to corrode. It is likely to result in many seal faces needing repaired.

Note that seal faces which have already been refaced may now have to be fully recut, resulting in higher costs and lost time.

Recommendations

When pipe is being returned onshore for maintenance or storage, it should be flushed out/washed down with water (fresh if possible) prior to being laid out. As a minimum, threads and seal faces should be thoroughly doped before proper plastic protectors are fitted.

Rig site handbooks

FPG can offer Drill String Care Handbooks (NS-19) and for specialist projects, are able to put custom 'Tally Book' sized publications together which capture all of the key elements that you want the Rig Crew to be aware of.

More info:

For more information or assistance in proper handling techniques, contact Fearnley Procter Drill String Engineering at DShelp@fp-g.com