



Operational risk & performance assurance

Control verification

DROPS management system assessment

Independent verification that dropped object controls are effective in practice

Dropped objects (DROPS) remain one of the most persistent high-consequence risks in operational environments, with the potential to cause serious injury, fatality and significant asset damage.

Incidents rarely occur due to a lack of procedures – they occur when controls degrade, securing arrangements fail or inspection and maintenance disciplines are not consistently applied.

As part of ModuSpec's operational risk & performance assurance framework, DROPS management system assessment sits within the control verification pillar, focusing on verifying that dropped object prevention controls are effective, implemented and consistently applied in the operating environment.

Our approach provides independent verification that dropped object risks are actively controlled through robust systems, effective safeguards and disciplined execution.

Control verification within ORPA

The control verification pillar focuses on confirming that:

- Critical operational safeguards are in place and functioning
- Physical barriers and controls remain effective over time
- Inspection, maintenance and verification activities are robust
- Operational discipline supports consistent control execution

DROPS management system assessment provides targeted verification of dropped object prevention controls and system effectiveness.

Industry alignment

DROPS management system assessments can be delivered in accordance with recognised industry frameworks and operator-specific requirements, including:

- DROPS recommended practice (latest revision)
- DROPS Reliable Securing Standard
- IOGP guidance on asset integrity and safety-critical equipment
- OEM requirements for equipment securing and maintenance
- Applicable regulatory and client-specific standards

Assessments are aligned to both industry expectations and operational risk exposure, ensuring that dropped object controls are verified in practice rather than assumed from documentation.

Risk-based control verification

DROPS assurance scopes are defined based on the specific risk exposure of the asset or operation, including:

- Work at height and dropped object exposure
- Equipment complexity and configuration
- Operational activity (e.g. lifting, SIMOPS, maintenance)
- Asset condition and lifecycle stage

Incident history or known control weaknesses

This ensures assurance effort is focused on the controls that prevent high-consequence events.

DROPS management system assessment scopes

Verification that a structured DROPS management system is implemented and integrated within operational and safety management systems.

Roles, responsibilities & accountability

Verification that DROPS roles, responsibilities and accountability are clearly defined, understood and implemented.

Risk assessment & hazard management

Verification that dropped object hazards are systematically identified, assessed and controlled using appropriate risk management tools and processes.

Inspection & maintenance discipline

Verification that inspection programmes, maintenance activities and corrective action processes effectively manage dropped object risks.

Equipment securing & design integrity

Verification that equipment securing arrangements, including primary and secondary retention, meet industry standards and remain effective in service.

Zone management & exposure control

Verification that exclusion zones, restricted access areas and exposure controls are defined, implemented and maintained.

Tool & equipment control

Verification that portable tools and equipment are effectively controlled, secured and managed during operations.

Training, competence & human performance (DROPS-specific)

Verification that personnel are trained, competent and supported to manage dropped object risks in practice.

Assurance & continuous improvement

Verification that monitoring, auditing and performance review processes identify weaknesses and drive continuous improvement.

Reporting, investigation & learning

Verification that dropped object events, near misses and hazards are reported, investigated and used to improve operational controls.

Tailored assurance scopes

DROPS management system assessments can be delivered as bespoke scopes aligned to specific operational risks or project requirements, including:

- Pre-mobilisation or rig intake DROPS assurance
- High-risk activity verification (e.g. lifting, maintenance campaigns)
- Asset-wide DROPS performance and system effectiveness reviews

- Post-incident control verification and system review
- Contractor DROPS assurance and interface verification

Leadership value

DROPS management system assessment provides operational leadership with:

- Independent confirmation that dropped object controls are effective
- Reduced exposure to high-consequence dropped object incidents
- Improved consistency in inspection, maintenance and securing practices
- Greater confidence in barrier integrity and operational discipline
- Defensible assurance under regulatory, partner and board scrutiny

Independent. Risk-based. Operationally grounded.

MR MODUSPEC

Speak to us about independent assurance to verify the effectiveness of your critical operational controls.

Contact

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