

OFFSHORE SAFE WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR PERSONNEL TRANSFER

BPC-GUI-PTW · Billy Pugh Company, LLC

TIER 3 • GUIDANCE

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Document owner	Quality & Safety Coordinator	Approved by	Chief Operating Officer

Guidance for operators, contractors and crews using Billy Pugh personnel transfer devices, including the X-904 and the X-800 Series, for crane transfers offshore. It explains why Billy Pugh Company does not publish a single wind or sea-state limit, and what to assess before every transfer.

1. OUR POSITION

Billy Pugh Company does not set a specific adverse-weather limit for offshore crane personnel transfer. There are two reasons.

1. Many of the operators and contractors using personnel transfer devices have their own tolerances and procedures for their transfer operating envelopes. A limit set by the manufacturer for sea state and weather could conflict with the policies those companies have put in place.
2. There are many variables in determining a safe working envelope for an offshore crane transfer. These variables make it impossible to give a single number for wind and sea state that is right for every transfer.

2. WHAT TO ASSESS BEFORE EACH TRANSFER

The safe working envelope depends on the transfer in front of you. Assess at least the following at the pre-lift meeting:

- The size of the vessel. Transferring to or from a 300-foot supply vessel in heavy seas is a very different operation from the same transfer on a small crew boat.
- The training and experience of the personnel being transferred.
- The size and condition of the landing area.
- The training, experience and certification of the crane operator.
- Whether the transfer is taking place on the windward or the lee side.
- The crane operator's visibility.
- Whether the vessel or vessels have dynamic positioning (DP) capability.

The deciding question. Do the crew being transferred, the boat captain and the crane operator agree, at their pre-lift meeting, that this transfer can be done safely? In our opinion this is the most critical factor in any rough-sea or bad-weather transfer decision. If they do not agree, the transfer does not proceed.

3. WHY A SINGLE NUMBER WOULD NOT HELP

A wind limit that is safe for one operation can be unsafe for another. An operator with good equipment, large DP vessels, well-trained crews and operators, and a sound transfer system may be able to work safely in

conditions beyond a commonly used crane wind limit. The same wind, with a small boat, no DP and an inexperienced crew, may not be safe at all.

A single limit published by the manufacturer would do harm either way. It would restrict a safe, well-considered operation for no reason, or it would suggest that a transfer is acceptable because it falls inside the published envelope, when in that setting it is not.

4. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Reference	Title
BPC-GUI-X904U	X-904 Safe Use and Care
BPC-FRM-JSA	Job Safety Analysis: Offshore Crane Personnel Transfer (sample)

5. REVISION HISTORY

Rev.	Date	Description of change	Issued by
0	27-OCT-2026	First issue under a controlled document number. Source: the undated single-page sheet "Offshore Safe Weather Conditions for Personnel Transfer" (X-904 and X-800). Position and assessment factors unchanged; first-person text restated in the Company's voice, the deciding question set out as a callout, and the closing sentence on disagreement added to state what the source implies. The source's third-party operator example (wind limits, transfer count and incident record) removed because no record supports it; the point it made is kept without figures.	R. Siqueira, CEO

6. APPROVAL

	Name and title	Signature	Date
Prepared by	Rodrigo Siqueira, Chief Executive Officer		27-OCT-2026
Approved by	Ray Coleman, Chief Operating Officer		