

NS ACCREDITATION & STANDARDS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 Edition 1 | 2026



NS ACCREDITATION & STANDARDS
A Fearnley Group Company

MAJOR UPDATE

Enhanced NS-1™ Drill Pipe Specs

- Sour Service Drill Pipe
- High Strength Drill Pipe

AI INTEGRATED

Smarter Standards. Faster Answer.

Introducing the NS AI Information Hub
Smart Search - Translation - Help Desk

TRAINING ACADEMY

Our New Training Vision

expanding our training offerings

01

The Future of NS & AI

02

Major Update to the NS Standards

03

New Training Academy

04

Spotlight on Hardbanding

05

New Subscribers, Initial Approvals and Reapprovals

NS

ACCREDITATION & STANDARDS



NS-1™ Quality and Inspection Requirements for New and Refurbished Drilling and Well Completion Equipment



NS-2™ Drill String Inspection Standard for Used Proprietary and Specialised Drilling and Well Completion Equipment



NS-3™ Drill String Design Manual

A WORD FROM THE OWNER



KEVIN FEARNLEY SR.
(CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

As we move further into 2026, I am proud to reflect on how far the NS Accreditation & Standards platform has evolved – not only in scale, but in purpose.

From the outset, my vision has always been clear: to create a set of standards that are practical, independent, and grounded in real operational experience, and supported by an Accreditation and Certification offering. Today, that vision continues to guide us, but the way we deliver it is changing rapidly.

This edition highlights three important developments that represent the next phase of that journey.

First, the integration of AI into the NS Information Hub marks a significant step forward. Our goal is simple – to make technical standards more accessible, more intuitive, and faster to use in real-world environments. By combining decades of engineering knowledge with intelligent search and support tools, we are moving towards a system where answers are not just available, but immediately actionable.

Second, the continued evolution of the NS-1™ Standard reflects our commitment to staying at the forefront of industry requirements.

The addition of Sour Service and High Strength Drill Pipe specifications is a direct response to the challenges we see across the field. Our standards must always reflect reality – not theory – and this is where we continue to invest heavily.

Third, the opening of our Training Academy in 2026/2027 represents an important milestone in expanding our global footprint. Training has become a critical part of ensuring consistency, competency, and ownership across operations. By bringing our courses closer to the regions we serve, we are strengthening both capability and connection within the industry.

What remains unchanged is our core principle: independence. The NS Standards and Accreditation are built to provide clarity, consistency, and confidence – not only for manufacturers, operators, drilling contractors and the complete supply chain but for the wider industry.

As always, I would like to thank our clients, partners, and teams around the world for their continued trust and support.

We look forward to what comes next.

– Kevin Fearnley Sr.
Chief Executive Officer
Fearnley Group

01 THE FUTURE OF NS & AI



Introducing AI to the NS Standards

“Finding what you need is faster and easier than ever before.”

At **Fearnley Group**, we are always looking for new ways to improve the service we provide to our subscribers. As part of that commitment, we have invested in the development of NS AI, a powerful new tool designed to help subscribers find the information they need quickly and with greater accuracy.

This year marks the first stage of our AI rollout.

The NS Information Hub, which gives subscribers access to NS Standards, publications, and online training materials, has been upgraded with an AI-powered search function.

Currently in beta testing with our engineers, this new capability will soon be available to all NS Standards subscribers. Subscribers will have the option to use either a traditional keyword search or the new AI search for faster, smarter results.

Built using the NS Standards and related documents, NS AI is designed to understand what you are looking for, identify the most relevant information, and make access to critical content simpler than ever.

For those working across the oil and gas industry, it means less time searching and more time getting the job done.

The Answers to Your Questions

“integrating AI into this help desk feature and training”

Our AI search engine is only the beginning.

The next stage of our AI rollout will enhance the NS Spec Help, helping oil and gas professionals get quicker, more relevant answers to technical questions.

Unlike general AI tools, NS AI has been developed using years of technical enquiries, through our online help desk. That means more focused answers, better understanding of industry specific queries, and faster access to the right information.

Subscribers will still submit questions through the NS Information Hub as normal, but with AI assistance, our Technical Team will be able to respond more quickly and include direct links to the most relevant sections.

Every AI-assisted response **will continue to be checked by one of our technical specialists** before it is issued combining the speed of AI with the confidence of expert review.

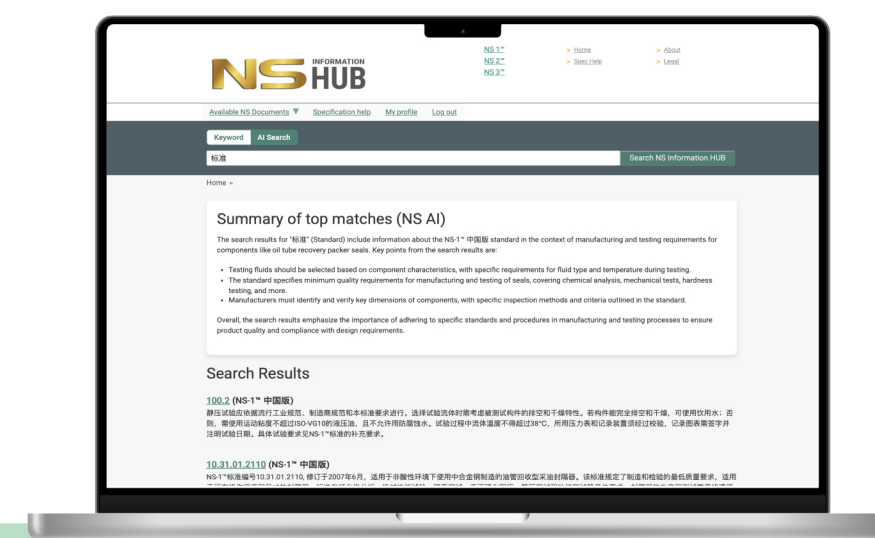
The result is a smarter, faster, and more reliable support service built specifically for NS Standards subscribers.

No More Language Barriers.

One of the most powerful uses of AI, beyond search and technical support, is the ability to translate information automatically between languages where context is key.

This is a major step forward for global industries like oil and gas, where clear communication across different regions, teams, and languages is essential.

Fearnley Group plans to introduce this capability across our Standards and Publications so that every subscriber can ask questions in their own language.



This will make access to technical information easier, faster, and more inclusive for users worldwide helping ensure that language is less of a barrier when it comes to understanding critical standards

Our training courses too are going to be upgraded so that every student on our NS Distance Learning Programme can access our training material. Even if English is not your first language, we can provide you with training and mentorship that goes beyond the language barrier.

02

MAJOR UPDATE To The NS Standards

NEW UPDATE

Major Update to the NS-1™ Standard

NS-1™ specifications on Drill Pipe with Welded Tool Joints improved.

Since our last newsletter the Technical Team, responsible for keeping the NS Standards up to date and always at the cutting edge of the industry, have released a major update to the Fearnley Group NS-1™ specifications related to Drill Pipe.

Not only have the specifications been updated to include new industry knowledge gained from case studies and on the ground experience, through our QA/QC, Engineering and Mill Surveillance activities, specifications have been revised to include Sour Service Drill Pipe and High Strength Drill Pipe.

Key changes in the Drill Pipe with Welded Tool Joints specification [03.30.00.1110] include:

- Inclusion of High Strength Drill Pipe and Sour Service Drill Pipe.
- Increased Minimum Internal Upset length.
- Changes to Surface Hardness and Through Wall Hardness requirements for standard weight drill pipe weld zone.
- Changes to the Tool Joint Connection Break In requirements



NS-19™ Refreshed

At the request of one of our client's, we recently undertook a major overhaul and update to one of our most longstanding **NS™ Publications: the NS-19™ Rig Crew Tool Joint & Connection Handbook.**

This hard copy 'tally book' sized publication was designed to assist all those either on the rig, or in support functions, to increase the life of downhole equipment.

The recommendations in this handbook are based on over 35 years experience across the full life cycle of drill string operations, including procurement, handling, inspection, failure prevention, and training

The principles and practices align with the NS Publications now widely recognised as the industry benchmark so that whatever your discipline or function this handbook can be used as a reference for general information or as a basis for a competency standard.

The recent revision has significantly updated the material, and taken into account our rig visits for auditing and assessing rig practices.

If you are interested in a personalised reference handbook or more information on our full suite of NS™ Publications please contact :

ns.administration@fearnleygroup.com

“The Rig Crew Tool Joint
& Connection Handbook”

A practical reference for day-to-day operations
A guide to good practices during handling and training
A foundation for competency, consistency and ownership

COMING SOON

An Addition to our suite of FREE Technical Gap Analyses.

Our team are also currently working on an comparison between NS-1™, DS-1® Vol 1 and API 5DP & Spec 7-1 which is in the final stages of completion.

You can already request a FREE controlled version of our extensive gap analysis between NS-2™ and DS-1® and between NS-2™ and API RP7G-2.

Visit our website to request your own controlled copy and we'll add you to our register of interested parties so you can get the first release.

Or follow us on LinkedIn for an update as soon as these are released.

03

New Training ACADEMY

ANNOUNCING THE FEARNLEY GROUP TRAINING ACADEMY

We are delighted to share an exciting new chapter in the evolution of Fearnley Group's global training offering—the **launch of our Training Academy initiative**, planned for 2026/2027.

Why a Training Academy?

Across our many years of training experience, we have observed a **10–15 year knowledge gap** emerging within the industry. Bridging this gap is essential—not only for individual career growth but for the long-term health and innovation of the oil and gas sector as a whole.

To meet this need, we are investing in a **holistic, career long training model** designed to support professionals at every stage—from new graduates entering the field to seasoned experts seeking continued development.

Our Vision

The Training Academy will bring together expanded course offerings, expert trainers, and flexible learning pathways.

What Stays the Same?

Our current training platforms remain strong pillars of Fearnley Group:

- **Virtual Courses** – including our Distance Learning Programme and popular live online sessions for those who prefer not to travel.
- **Bespoke Courses** – tailored, on-site training delivered worldwide to meet local needs.

These will continue and expand as part of our multi faceted Academy approach.

WHAT'S NEW?

The Academy will introduce greater accessibility, a broader range of topics, and a more diverse learning ecosystem, designed to grow alongside the shifting needs of individuals, companies and the wider industry.



Initial Course Offerings

Our experienced training team will begin by offering the following courses, with more to be added as the Academy develops:

- Manufacturing Awareness Courses (DS 1®, API, NS™ Standards)
- Inspection Theory: Drill Pipe & BHA (DS 1®, API, NS™)
- NDT Courses: ISO 9712 Level 2 & 3 (MT, PT, UT, RT, ET, PAUT, TOFD, Welding Inspector & VT)
- ASME Standards (Sec VIII Div 1 & 2, Sec IX, Sec V)
- Drillstring Failure Prevention
- Drillstring Design
- Stuckpipe Prevention
- Risk Management
- QMS Courses (ISO 9001, API Q1, API Q2, Lead Auditor)
- API Product Specifications (6A, 6D, 16A, 6AR, 16AR, 5CT, etc.)
- NDT for Non NDT Personnel
- Metallurgy for Non Metallurgists
- FG Certification: Offshore Container Inspector
- FG Certification: Quality Control Engineering
- FG Certification: Failure Analysis
- FG Certification: Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) – GRI Standards
- API ICP Prep Courses: 510, 570, 653, 571, RBI, and more.

Stay Connected

More updates are coming soon! Keep an eye on future newsletters and our website for announcements as we move closer to launching the Fearnley Group Training Academy.

04 SPOTLIGHT ON HARDBANDING



Spotlight- NS-1™ Drillpipe Hardbanding Approvals

In this edition of the Newsletter we would like to highlight our NS-1™ Hardbanding Product and Process Approvals.

The approval of Hardbanding products and the related processes have been a longstanding part of our Accreditation product line and over the years it has undergone changes and improvements to keep pace with the market's needs.

One of the major changes we introduced several years ago was to require the provision of a sample of the hardband product and its batch number along with a sheet detailing its chemical content and wire construction. The sample then undergoes laboratory tests for confirmation and the results are kept on file.

At each reapproval new chemistry analysis results from a recent production sample of the hardband product are then compared to the results of the initial approval sample on file.

All Hardbanding Manufacturers becoming approved for the first time also receive a site visit by us, so that the company QMS and on-site hardband manufacturing processes and practices can be independently evaluated. We also added a requirement for the reapplication of the hardband product over itself to be assessed.

These additions to the NS-1™ Accreditation programme for Hardbanding wire were put into place in consultation with

manufacturers and end users to monitor the consistency of Hardbanding products from one approval to the next, and to provide a point of reference for individual Hardbanding products and it has more than proved its worth.

Level 3 approved Products now also carry the assurance that an experienced engineer has witnessed the necessary casing wear tests at a qualified independent testing house. Clients unable to take this extra step can still be approved to Level 2 where we independently review the casing wear tests, rather than witness them taking place ourselves.

Together we have made the approval process more rigorous and exacting so that end clients can be sure that when they see the NS-1™ logo on a purchase they are getting a high quality and independently verified product.

What has remained unchanged is that we continue to audit the applicator's ability to consistently reapply the product to a high level and maintain that quality level across the years. At each reassessment we also go out to end clients using the product to see if there are any issues or concerns so that a reapproval with us is not only a confirmation that the product is just as good as previously but also a rigorous audit of the product's continued fitness for purpose and assurance of user satisfaction.

05 NEW SUBSCRIBERS,

INITIAL APPROVALS AND RE-APPROVALS

NEW NS SUBSCRIBERS

NS-1™ & NS-2™ Subscription

Innovex Inc (Houston, USA)
Inpex Masela (Jakarta, Indonesia)
Juice Engineering (Banchory, UK)
Simplicity AS (Vigrestad, Norway)
Titan Energies Limited (Aberdeen, UK)
Ulterra Drilling Technologies (Forth Worth, USA)
Wepco AS (Stavanger Norway)
Wintershall Dea Deutschland GmbH (Hamburg, Germany)

UPGRADED

OCTG Oilfield Services (Cape Town, South Africa)
Schlumberger Oilfield Equipments (Shanghai) Co.,Ltd. (Shanghai, P.R.C)
Tomax AS (Stavanger Norway)

NS-1™ Subscription

Sichuan Hilong Petroleum Technology Co., Ltd (Nanchong City, P.R.C)
Toolserv AS (Stavanger, Norway)

NS-2™ Subscription

Reliant Oil and Gas Services Sdn Bhd (Labuan, Malaysia)
Accura Brindo Sdn Bhd (Kuala Belai, Brunei Darussalam)
Desa 7 Resources (M) Sdn Bhd (Labuan, Malaysia)
Expro Norway (Sandnes, Norway)
Weld Integrity AS (Bryne, Norway)
Smith International Italia (Saline di Volterra (PI), Italy)

NEW INITIAL APPROVALS 2025:

Jiangsu Shuguang Energy Equipment & Tools Co., Ltd (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Facility Approval
Level 5. Non-Welded Heavy Weight Drill
and Drill Collars
Certificate 0298/25-5

Shandong Hongdi Testing Technology Service Co., Ltd (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-2™ Facility Approval
Level 3. Drill Pipe and BHA Inspection
Certificate 0300/25-3

Shandong Weima Equipment Science & Technology Corporation Limited (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design Approval
Level 3. WMT-50 Connection
Certificate 0297/25-3

Shanxi Fenglei Drilling Tools Co., Ltd (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design Approval
Level 3. SFDT FL-50 Connection
Certificate 0296/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Product Approval
Level 2. IPC FT3000 (Liquid Coating)
Certificate 0294/25-2

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Product Approval
Level 2. IPC FT3000P
Certificate 0295/25-2

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Process Approval
Level 1. FL 350 Hardbanding - Initial
application of Non NS-1™ Approved
Hardband onto the Tong space of Drill
String Members
Certificate 0290/25-1

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Process
Approval
Level 1. FL 150 Hardbanding - Initial
application of Non NS-1™ Approved
Hardband onto the Tong space of Drill
String Members
Certificate 0289/25-1

Sichuan Hilong Petroleum Technology Co., Ltd (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Product
Approval
Level 2. TC3000F - Application of
Internal Plastic Coating onto OCTG
Certificate 0299/25-2

NEW INITIAL RE-APPROVALS 2025:

Daye Special Steel Co., Ltd (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Facility Re-Approval
Level 2. Drill Pipe with Welded Tool Joints
- Heat Treatment, Inspection, and Testing
of Seamless Pipe for the Manufacture of
Drill Pipe Tool Joints.
Drill Pipe Heavy Weight with Welded Tool
Joints - Heat Treatment, Inspection, and
Testing of Seamless Pipe for the
Manufacture of Welded HWDP Pipe
Bodies and Tool Joints
Drill Collars - Heat Treatment, Inspection,
and Testing of Seamless Pipe for the
Manufacture of Drill Collars
Certificate 0275/25-2

Pipe & Drilling Tools Manufacture Co. Ltd. (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-2™ Facility Re-Approval
Level 3. Drill Pipe and BHA Inspection
Certificate 0271/25-3

Shandong Weima Equipment Science & Technology Corporation Limited (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design Re-Approval
Level 3. WMT38 Connection
Certificate 0284/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design Re-Approval
Level 3. WMT39 Connection
Certificate 0285/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design
Re-Approval
Level 3. WMT54 Connection
Certificate 0286/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design
Re-Approval
Level 3. WMT57 Connection
Certificate 0287/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design
Re-Approval
Level 3. WM 2-7/8HTPAC Connection
Certificate 0288/25-3

Hebei Longway Petroleum Equipment Co., Ltd (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Process
Re-Approval
Level 2. BoTn 1000 - Initial Application
of a Non NS-1™ Approved Hardband Wire
onto the Tong Space of Drill String
Members
Certificate 0283/25-2

Arnco Technology Trust Ltd. (USA)

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Product
Re-Approval
Level 3. Arnco 350XT™
Certificate 0269/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Product
Re-Approval
Level 3. Arnco 400XT™
Certificate 0270/25-3

Shanxi Fenglei Drilling Tools Co., Ltd (P.R.C)

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design
Re-Approval
Level 3. FL-38 Connection
Certificate 0278/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design
Re-Approval
Level 3. FL-39 Connection
Certificate 0279/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design
Re-Approval
Level 3. FL-54 Connection
Certificate 0280/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design
Re-Approval
Level 3. FL-57 Connection
Certificate 0281/25-3

Fearnley Group NS-1™ Design
Re-Approval
Level 3. FLHT-2 7/8PAC Connection
Certificate 0282/25-3



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Volume 8 Edition 1 | 2026

Helpful Links

www.nsinformationhub.com

The NS Information Hub is the location for our NS Standards, NS Library of Publications and the Distance Learning Programme.

www.fearnleygroup.com

Our main company website.

www.drillingtrainingcourses.com

Explore our range of Oil & Gas industry training courses.

Contact:

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