

Claims

1. A control apparatus for a tool, the tool having features for engaging with complementary
5 features on an object, the control apparatus comprising:

an identifier provided on the object, the identifier providing information relating to the correct use
of the tool;

a reader associated with the tool for reading the identifier; and

a processor in communication with the reader for processing the identifier information and
10 controlling the tool.
2. A control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tool is a ROV tool provided on a ROV.
3. A control apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the identifier is an ID chip and
15 the reader is a chip reader.
4. A control apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the object comprises a
docking unit for the tool.
- 20 5. A control apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the docking unit comprises a docking unit
of a valve operated by the tool.
6. A control apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the valve is a subsea valve.
- 25 7. A control apparatus according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the identifier provides
information relating to the status of the valve.

8. A control apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the identifier provides information relating to the maximum torque which can be supplied to the tool.

5 9. A control apparatus according to claim 2, or any one of claims 3-8 as dependent on claim 2, wherein the processor is located within the ROV.

10. A control apparatus according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein the object is located in a subsea environment and the processor is located at the surface.

10

11. A tool having engaging features for engaging with complementary features on an object, the tool comprising:

a reader associated with the tool for reading an identifier provided on the object, the identifier providing information relating to the correct use of the tool; and

15 a processor in communication with the reader for processing the identifier information and controlling the tool.

12. A tool according to claim 11, wherein the tool is a ROV tool.

20 13. An object having features for engaging with complementary features on a tool, the object comprising:

an identifier providing information relating to the correct use of the tool.

14. An object according to claim 13, wherein the tool is an ROV tool

25

15. A method of controlling a tool, the tool having engaging features for engaging with complementary features on an object, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an identifier on the object, the identifier providing information relating to the use of the tool;

5 providing a reader associated with the tool, the reader being capable of reading the identifier information;

reading the information provided by the identifier;

processing the information provided by the identifier to determine the correct operation of the tool; and

10 controlling the tool based on the identifier information.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the tool is a ROV tool.

17. A method according to claim 15 or claim 16, wherein the object is a docking unit of a valve operated by the tool, and the identifier provides information relating to the status of the valve, the method further comprising the step of obtaining information relating to the status of the valve.

18. A method according to any one of claims 15-17, comprising the further step of generating a log based on the information obtained from the identifier.

20

CLAIMS

1. A control apparatus for a tool, the tool having features for engaging with complementary features on an object, the control apparatus comprising:
 - an identifier provided on the object, the identifier providing information relating to the correct use of the tool;
 - a reader associated with the tool for reading the identifier; and
 - a processor in communication with the reader for processing the identifier information and controlling the tool, **characterised in that:**
 - the object comprises a docking unit for the tool;
 - the docking unit comprises a docking unit of a valve operated by the tool; and
 - the identifier provides information relating to the status of the valve.
2. A control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tool is a ROV tool provided on a ROV.
3. A control apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the identifier is an ID chip and the reader is a chip reader.
4. A control apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the valve is a subsea valve.
5. A control apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the identifier provides information relating to the maximum torque which can be supplied to the tool.
6. A control apparatus according to claim 2, or any one of claims 3-5 as dependent on claim 2, wherein the processor is located within the ROV.
7. A control apparatus according to claim 4 or claim 5 as dependent on claim 4, wherein the processor is located at the surface.
8. A method of controlling a tool, the tool having engaging features for engaging with complementary features on an object, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing an identifier on the object, the identifier providing information relating to the use of the tool;
 - providing a reader associated with the tool, the reader being capable of reading the identifier information;

reading the information provided by the identifier;

tool; processing the information provided by the identifier to determine the correct operation of the

and

controlling the tool based on the identifier information, **characterised in that:**

the object is a docking unit of a valve operated by the tool, and the identifier provides information relating to the status of the valve, the method further comprising the step of obtaining information relating to the status of the valve.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the tool is a ROV tool.

10. A method according to claim 8 or 9, comprising the further step of generating a log based on the information obtained from the identifier.