

## STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1980 No. 1759

## OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS

## The Offshore Installations (Well Control) Regulations 1980

*Made* - - - - 17th November 1980

*Laid before Parliament* 19th November 1980

*Coming into Operation* 1st January 1981

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 6(1) and (3) and 7(2) of, and paragraphs 3, 5(2) and 14 of the Schedule to, the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971(a) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, and after consulting with organisations in the United Kingdom appearing to him to be representative of those persons who will be affected, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Citation, commencement and interpretation*

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Offshore Installations (Well Control) Regulations 1980 and shall come into force on 1st January 1981.

(2) In these Regulations—

“installation manager” includes, when no manager of an offshore installation is appointed pursuant to section 4 of the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971, any person made responsible by the owner of the installation for safety, health and welfare on the installation;

“responsible person”, in relation to an offshore installation, means a competent person appointed by the installation manager to be responsible for the control and safety of drilling operations or production operations under Regulation 30(1) of the Offshore Installations (Operational Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations 1976(b).

*Well control operations*

2.—(1) No drilling operations or work over operations on a well controlled by the hydrostatic pressure of the wellbore fluid and for which no flow control device is installed except blowout prevention equipment shall be carried on an offshore installation unless they are carried on by persons in the immediate charge of a person (hereafter in this Regulation referred to as “the driller”) appointed for that purpose by a responsible person and who is himself acting under the general supervision of a person (hereafter in this Regulation referred to as “the drilling supervisor”) appointed for that purpose by a responsible person.

(a) 1971 c. 61. That Act (except section 1) was extended by section 44(1) of the Petroleum and Submarine Pipe-lines Act 1975 (c. 74). Section 44(5) of the Act of 1975 made an extension to section 6 of the Act of 1971 not relevant to these Regulations.

(b) S.I. 1976/1019.

(2) No person shall be appointed or shall act as a driller or a drilling supervisor unless—

- (a) he is the holder of a certificate granted within the preceding two years by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Petroleum Industry Training Board established under section 1 of the Industrial Training Act 1964(a) that he has an adequate knowledge of well control techniques including, in the case of a drilling supervisor, those relating to the safe resumption of normal working; or
- (b) he is the holder of a certificate specified in the Schedule hereto granted within the preceding two years but not later than 30th June 1981.

(3) Paragraph (2)(b) above shall cease to have effect on 1st January 1983.

(4) It shall be the duty of the employer of an employee employed by him for such operations on an offshore installation as are mentioned in paragraph (1) above to ensure that the employee complies with the provisions of paragraph (2) above so far as they prohibit him from acting as a driller or a drilling supervisor unless he is the holder of a specified certificate.

#### *Offences*

3.—(1) In the event of a contravention of Regulation 2 above on an offshore installation, the installation manager, the concession owner and the installation owner shall each be guilty of an offence.

(2) In the event of any contravention by any other person of Regulation 2(2) or (4) above, that person shall also be guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person who, with intent to deceive, forges or uses such a certificate as is mentioned in Regulation 2(2) above or makes or has in his possession a document so closely resembling any such certificate as to be calculated to deceive shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) It shall be a defence in any proceedings for an offence under paragraph (1) above for the accused to prove—

- (a) that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence; and
- (b) that the relevant contravention was committed without his consent, connivance or wilful default.

17th November 1980.

*Hamish Gray,*  
Minister of State,  
Department of Energy.

## THE SCHEDULE

## OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

1. Certificate granted by Southeastern Drilling Services Limited that the person in question had satisfactorily completed the 3 day course in pressure control.
2. Certificate granted by Halliburton Company (IMCO Services Division) that the person in question had completed a course in practical kick control using IMCO Services Blowout Simulator System.
3. Certificate granted by Deutsche Bohrmeisterschule in Celle that the person in question had attended a training course for blow out prevention.
4. Certificate granted by Chevron U.S.A. Incorporated that the person in question had successfully completed a short course in the prevention of oil and gas well blowouts.
5. Certificate granted by the Petroleum Industry Training Board that the person in question had satisfactorily completed a course in pressure control.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations, made under the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971, as extended by the Petroleum and Submarine Pipe-lines Act 1975, prohibit the carrying on of drilling operations or certain workover operations on offshore installations unless they are carried on by persons in the immediate charge of a driller and under the general supervision of a drilling supervisor.

Drillers and drilling supervisors are required to hold either a certificate granted within the previous two years by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Petroleum Industry Training Board that they have an adequate knowledge of well control techniques, or until 1st January 1983, one of the certificates relating to such techniques specified in the Schedule issued within the previous two years but not later than 1st July 1981.

SI 1980/1759  
ISBN 0-11-007759-8



780110 077598