

## 1976 No. 1542

## OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS

**The Offshore Installations (Emergency Procedures)  
Regulations 1976**

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| <i>Made</i> - - - -                                   | 20th September 1976 |
| <i>Laid before Parliament</i>                         | 27th September 1976 |
| <i>Coming into Operation:</i>                         |                     |
| <i>All Regulations except<br/>Regulations 4 and 5</i> | 18th October 1976   |
| <i>Regulations 4 and 5 -</i>                          | 1st February 1977   |

## ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

1. Citation and commencement.
2. Interpretation.
3. Application.
4. Emergency procedure manual.
5. Instruction notices.
6. Muster list.
7. Musters.
8. Drills.
9. Records.
10. Stand-by services.
11. Duties of persons.
12. Civil liability.
13. Offences.

Whereas the Secretary of State has consulted pursuant to section 7(1) of the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971(a) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") with organisations in the United Kingdom appearing to him to be representative of those persons who will be affected by the following Regulations:

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State, in exercise of his powers under sections 6 and 7 of, and paragraphs 1(1), 3, 4(1), 6, 7, 11, 12 and 14 of the Schedule to, the Act, as extended and amended by section 44 of the Petroleum and Submarine Pipe-lines Act 1975(b), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

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(a) 1971 c. 61.

(b) 1975 c. 74.

*Citation and commencement*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Offshore Installations (Emergency Procedures) Regulations 1976 and (with the exception of Regulations 4 and 5 which shall come into operation on 1st February 1977) shall come into operation on 18th October 1976.

*Interpretation*

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“emergency” includes an apprehended emergency;

“emergency equipment” means any equipment of an offshore installation provided for use in an emergency;

“emergency procedure manual” has the meaning given by Regulation 4(1) below;

“emergency station” has the meaning given by Regulation 6(1) below;

“fixed offshore installation” means an offshore installation which is not a mobile offshore installation;

“installation manager” includes, where no manager is appointed pursuant to section 4 of the Act, any person made responsible by the owner for safety, health and welfare on any offshore installation;

“mobile offshore installation” means an offshore installation which can be moved from place to place without major dismantling or modification, whether or not it has its own motive power;

“muster list” has the meaning given by Regulation 6(1) below; and

“stand-by vessel” has the meaning given by Regulation 10(1) below.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(a) shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

*Application*

3. These Regulations shall apply to—

(a) established fixed offshore installations maintained for underwater exploitation or exploration to which the Act applies; and

(b) mobile offshore installations, not being dredging installations registered (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) as vessels, when stationed in waters to which the Act applies.

*Emergency procedure manual*

4.—(1) There shall be provided in respect of every offshore installation which is normally manned a book (in these Regulations referred to as the “emergency procedure manual”) specifying the action to be taken in the event of an emergency on or near the installation and, in particular, in the following cases—

(a) a fire or explosion;

(b) a blow-out of a well;

(c) a leak or spillage of any oil or gas;

- (d) a storm or severe weather conditions affecting the stability of the installation;
  - (e) a movement of the sea bed affecting the stability of the installation;
  - (f) a failure of the structure of the installation;
  - (g) a failure of the equipment of the installation affecting the safety of persons;
  - (h) a failure of the means for keeping the installation on station;
  - (i) a collision involving the installation;
  - (j) an accident involving a helicopter;
  - (k) a person falling from the installation; and
  - (l) a death, a serious injury or illness.
- (2) There shall also be specified in the emergency procedure manual—
- (a) a code of signals suitable for transmission by means of a general alarm system for signifying the occurrence of specific emergencies and the action to be taken in respect of any of them, and instructions for the transmission of any of those signals by those means;
  - (b) instructions for the operation of the emergency equipment;
  - (c) instructions for rendering safe any work being carried on or any equipment being used on or near the installation in the event of an emergency;
  - (d) instructions for evacuating all persons on or near the installation therefrom; and
  - (e) the places on the installation at which plans showing the location of the emergency equipment are to be provided.
- (3) The emergency procedure manual shall contain particulars of—
- (a) the emergency services arranged for divers diving near the installation as required by Regulation 20 of the Offshore Installations (Diving Operations) Regulations 1974<sup>(a)</sup> (which Regulation requires the employers of divers to arrange rescue services for divers carrying on diving operations in connection with offshore installations);
  - (b) the action to be taken by the stand-by vessel for the transmission of emergency signals, the recovery of persons in the sea and the evacuation of persons from the installation;
  - (c) any action arranged by the owner of the installation to be taken by any person on land or another installation for providing assistance; and
  - (d) any available search and rescue services.
- (4) The emergency procedure manual shall contain the names and addresses of any public or local authorities to which any particular emergency is to be reported and specify the method of and the time for making the report.
- (5) A copy of the emergency procedure manual in English (together with translations thereof in such other languages as are appropriate) shall be made available at a suitable and readily accessible place on the installation.
- (6) The owner of an offshore installation which is normally manned shall, upon demand, furnish to the Secretary of State a copy of its emergency procedure manual.

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<sup>(a)</sup> S.I. 1974/1229 (1974 II, p. 4645).

(7) If the Secretary of State is of the opinion that the emergency procedure manual does not make sufficient provision for securing safety in the use of emergency equipment and the taking of action in the event of an emergency on or near the installation, he may serve on the owner of the installation a notice in writing stating that he is of that opinion and specifying the matter for which, in his opinion, provision or, as the case may be different provision ought to be made and the nature of the provision that, in his opinion, ought to be made, and the owner of the installation shall, before the expiration of such period beginning with the date of service of the notice as may be specified therein, amend the emergency procedure manual accordingly.

(8) A notice for the purpose of paragraph (7) above shall be sufficiently served on the owner of an offshore installation by addressing it to him and delivering it to him or sending it by post addressed to him at the last address in the United Kingdom notified for the purposes of Regulation 5(1)(a) or (b) of the Offshore Installations (Registration) Regulations 1972<sup>(a)</sup> (which Regulation relates to applications for the first registration of offshore installations).

#### *Instruction notices*

5. In any space on an offshore installation in respect of which there is a provision in the emergency procedure manual that particular action be taken in an emergency there shall be displayed a notice specifying that provision. The notice shall be in clear and permanent lettering in English and such other languages as are appropriate and shall be displayed in such a position that it can be easily read.

#### *Muster list*

6.—(1) There shall be provided in respect of every offshore installation when it is manned by 5 or more persons a list (in these Regulations referred to as the “muster list”) showing in respect of every person on the installation the station to which each person shall go in the event of an emergency (in these Regulations referred to as the “emergency station”) and any duties to be carried out in an emergency which are assigned to particular persons.

(2) The muster list shall set out the person appointed to be in charge of each emergency station and the persons to whom duties are assigned in connection with the following matters—

- (a) the closing of wells;
- (b) the closing of pipes carrying hydrocarbons or other flammable substances and the associated valves and vents;
- (c) the closing of fire doors and ventilators;
- (d) the closing of watertight doors;
- (e) the stopping of machinery;
- (f) the extinction of fire;
- (g) the equipping of survival craft and liferafts and making them ready for use;
- (h) the launching of survival craft and liferafts; and
- (i) the securing of the safety of visitors to the installation.

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(a) S.I. 1972/702 (1972 II, p. 2243).

(3) Copies of the muster list shall be displayed in English and all appropriate languages in such positions that they may be easily read in all accommodation areas and at each emergency station copies of the parts of the muster list relevant to the particular station shall be similarly displayed.

#### *Musters*

7.—(1) On every offshore installation which is normally manned musters shall take place so as to ensure that the persons on the installation are practised in the duties set out as assigned to them in the muster list at least once every 28 days, and, in the case of a mobile installation, immediately on arrival at, or immediately before departure from, a station.

(2) Every person on the installation shall be made aware of the signal for summoning all persons to their emergency stations and be instructed that, on the signal being given on the general alarm system, he is required to go to his emergency station.

(3) Every person on the installation not in charge of an emergency station shall be instructed that, on arrival at his emergency station, he is required to report to the person in charge of the station.

(4) Every person in charge of an emergency station shall be instructed that his duties as such a person include—

- (a) establishing the whereabouts of every person required to go to the station;
- (b) requiring every person arriving at the station to state what duties are set out as assigned to him in the muster list; and
- (c) reporting to the manager as to the whereabouts of every person required to go to the station and as to the knowledge of their duties of persons arriving at the station.

#### *Drills*

8.—(1) There shall be held at intervals not exceeding 12 days on every offshore installation which is normally manned a drill whereby—

- (a) each person on the installation to whom duties have been assigned in the event of emergency involving the use, handling or operation of emergency equipment is instructed in the correct use, handling or operation of that equipment; and
- (b) all emergency equipment used in the drill is examined, cleaned and, where appropriate, recharged or replaced and all portable equipment so used is returned to the place where it is ordinarily kept.

(2) At intervals not exceeding 8 weeks there shall be held on every offshore installation which is normally manned and is equipped with totally enclosed motor propelled survival craft a drill in relation to the loading, swinging out and, if reasonably practicable, lowering over the water of all such craft.

#### *Records*

9. Without prejudice to anything contained in Regulation 3(2) of the Offshore Installations (Logbooks and Registration of Death) Regulations 1972(a) (which Regulation relates to entries made in installation logbooks) an entry shall be

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(a) S.I. 1972/1542 (1972 III, p. 4532).

made in the installation logbook maintained on any offshore installation under Regulation 2(1) of those Regulations of every muster and every drill held on the installation under Regulations 7 and 8 above respectively.

#### *Stand-by services*

**10.**—(1) There shall be present within 5 nautical miles of every offshore installation when it is manned a vessel (in these Regulations referred to as the “stand-by vessel”) ready to give assistance in the event of an emergency on or near the installation and—

- (a) which is capable of accommodating safely on board all persons who may be on the installation at any time; and
- (b) which is equipped to provide first aid treatment for all such persons.

(2) Means for radio communication on appropriate wavelengths between every installation and its stand-by vessel shall be provided for at all times by suitable and effective equipment. Alternative means of communication shall also be provided on every installation and its stand-by vessel.

#### *Duties of persons*

**11.** In respect of any offshore installation it shall be the duty of—

- (a) the owner of the installation and the concession owner to ensure that these Regulations are complied with;
- (b) the installation manager to ensure that—
  - (i) Regulations 6 to 9 above are complied with;
  - (ii) every person subject to his authority is made aware of those provisions of the emergency procedure manual and of these Regulations which are relevant to him; and
  - (iii) subject to section 5(5) of the Act, the appropriate measures specified in the emergency procedure manual are taken in the event of an emergency on or near the installation; and
- (c) every person on the installation to acquaint himself with his emergency station and any duties assigned to him in the event of an emergency.

#### *Civil liability*

**12.** The provisions of section 11 of the Act (which makes provision for civil liability for breach of statutory duty) shall apply to the duties imposed on any person by these Regulations.

#### *Offences*

**13.**—(1) In the event of any contravention of any of these Regulations in or in connection with, or in relation to, an offshore installation, the installation manager, the concession owner and the owner of the installation shall each be guilty of an offence.

(2) In the event of any contravention by any person of Regulation 11(c) above, that person shall also be guilty of an offence.

(3) If any person enters any information knowing it to be false in any record or any other document required to be provided or maintained under these Regulations or knowingly falsifies any such record or document or uses any such record or document for the purposes of these Regulations knowing it to be false in a material particular, that person shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) It shall be a defence in any proceedings for an offence under paragraphs (1) and (2) 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.

20th September 1976.

*J. Dickson Mabon,*  
Minister of State,  
Department of Energy.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations, made under the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971, as extended and amended by the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Act 1975, apply to manned fixed and mobile offshore installations (other than dredging installations) concerned with the underwater exploitation and exploration of mineral resources in waters to which the Act of 1971 applies. The Regulations, except Regulations 4 and 5, come into operation on 18th October 1976 and Regulations 4 and 5 on 1st February 1977.

The Regulations require that there be provided for every installation which is normally manned an emergency procedure manual specifying the actions to be taken in emergencies. They also require the provision of a muster list, the holding of musters and drills and that a vessel is at all times present within 5 nautical miles of any manned installation ready to give assistance in an emergency.

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