

Summary of the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations 1996 (DCR)

1.1 Scope & Objectives

This Statutory Instrument is mainly concerned with the design and construction of offshore facilities. It dictates assignments, mainly during the design stage, on the duty holder to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that the installation fulfils its intended use. The Regulations are qualitative and do not contain formulae or quantitative criteria for design of oil and gas installations.

This Statutory Instrument contains requirement for ensuring installations and wells are designed, constructed and kept in a sound structural state.

1.2 Part II: Integrity of Installations

The Regulations requires the duty holder to ensure that the design of an installation which is to be constructed is as far as is reasonably practicable safe. This is highlighted further by a series of areas which need to be considered in the design stage including:

- Design aspects of an installation
- Operation of an installation
- Maintenance of integrity and
- Decommissioning and dismantlement

The Regulations also provide further requirements which are imposed on the duty holder to ensure that helicopter landing area which forms a part of the installation is large enough and is of a design and construction adequate for its purpose.

1.3 Part IV: Wells

As well as imposing duties on the main structural integrity of the installation, the Regulations impose a number of other general duties on the operation of the wells to ensure that it is designed, modified, commissioned, constructed, equipped, operated, maintained, suspended and abandoned as far as is reasonably practicable safely.

Key issues which are addressed in the Regulations include:

- Assessment of the conditions below ground
- Design with a view to suspension and abandonment
- Well control and provisions for drilling
- Arrangements for examination
- Information, instruction, training and supervision