

Summary of the Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 2005

This Statutory Instrument is mainly concerned with Safety Case preparation. A Safety Case is a document containing specified information relating to the management of health and safety and control of major accident hazards. It is highly recommended for its qualitative information which is relevant for the design of oil and gas installations. The document contains no formulae or quantitative criteria for design of oil and gas installations.

The parts which are relevant for design of oil and gas installations for fire and/or explosions are briefly outlined below.

1.1 Regulation 2: Interpretation

The Safety Case Regulations define a major accident as:

- A fire, explosion or release of a dangerous substance involving death and personal injury,
- An event which involves major damage to the structure of the installation or plant affixed to it or any loss in stability of the installations,
- Helicopter collision with installation,
- Failure of life support systems in diving operations or
- Any other event arising from a work activity resulting in death or serious personal injury to 5 or more persons.

1.2 Regulation 6: Design and relocation notifications for production installations

The Regulations state that for a production installation which is to be established, the operator shall prepare a design notification containing the particulars outlined in Schedule 1 of the regulations.

In particular, the operator shall include a description of how the chosen design concept is intended to ensure that risks with the potential to cause a major accident are reduced to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable.

1.3 Regulation 7: Safety case for production installation

The operator of a production installation shall ensure that a safety case has been submitted and approved by the Health and Safety Executive prior to commencing operations.

For both production and non-production installations, the Safety Case shall include a description of the measures taken or to be taken for the protection of persons on the installation from hazards of explosion, fire, heat, smoke, toxic gas or fumes during any period while they may need to remain on the installation following an incident which is beyond immediate control and for enabling them to be evacuated from the installation where necessary. Provision shall be made for:

- Temporary refuge (TR)

- Routes from locations where persons may be present to the TR and for egress from TR to points from where they can be evacuated
- Means of evacuation at those points
- Facilities within the TR for the monitoring and control of the incident and for organising evacuation.

1.4 Regulation 9: Design notification and safety case for non production installation to be converted

Similar to production installations, the owner shall prepare a design notification as per Schedule 1 of the Regulations with the particulars not contained in any current safety case.

1.5 Regulation 10: Notification of combined operations

The duty holder shall ensure that for an installation that is to be involved in combined operations, a notification containing the particulars outlined in Schedule 4 of the Regulations in respect of the combined operation is sent to the Health and Safety Executive.

Schedule 4 specifies that among the particulars to be included in a notification of combined operations, there shall be a description of any activities that may involve hazards with the potential to cause a major accident and a description of any risk control measures introduced as a result of that review.

1.6 Regulation 12: Management of health and safety and control of major accident hazards

The Statutory Instrument outlines what the operators have to demonstrate to the HSE in the Safety Case. These include:

- the management system is adequate to ensure
 - that the relevant statutory provisions are complied with and
 - the satisfactory management of arrangement with contractors and sub-contractors
- establishing adequate arrangements for audit and for making of reports thereof,
- all hazards with the potential to cause a major accident have been identified and
- all major accident risks have been evaluated and measures have been (or will be) taken to control those risks to ensure that the relevant statutory provisions will be complied with.

The audit should be carried out by persons who are sufficiently independent of the system to ensure objectivity in the assessment.

1.7 Regulation 13: Review of safety case

The Regulations also state that the duty holder shall thoroughly review a current safety case within 5 years of:

- the date on which HSE accepted that current safety case and
- the date of the previous review

1.8 Regulation 19: Verification schemes

The Regulations state that the duty holder shall keep a record of the safety-critical elements and specified plant. A verification scheme shall be drawn up by or in consultation with an independent and competent person.

Details of the particulars to be included in the verification scheme are described in Schedule 7 of the Regulations.