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**Falkland Islands Government**  
Department of Mineral Resources



**Petroleum Operations Notice 8**  
Oil and Chemical Pollution

Revised April 2016

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## **1 REGULATIONS**

Offshore Petroleum (Licensing) Regulations 1995 and 2000: Model Clause 21(8) of Schedule 2.

The licensee shall give notice to the Director of Mineral Resources on behalf of the Governor of any event causing escape or waste of petroleum, damage to petroleum bearing strata or entrance of water through wells to petroleum bearing strata except for the purposes of secondary recovery forthwith after the occurrence of that event and shall, forthwith after the occurrence of any event causing escape of petroleum into the sea, give notice to such person or authority as the Governor may have notified him that notice in that behalf shall be given.

## **2 REPORTING AN OIL/CHEMICAL SPILL**

\* All escapes of pollution into the sea must be reported as soon as possible to:-

- (i) the Department of Mineral Resources as regulator and
- (ii) the Department of Natural Resources as incident command for the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP).

(The information required is summarised in the proforma of Annex 1 and the contact points are given in Annex 2.)

## **3 USE OF DISPERSANTS**

Operators must observe the following guidelines on when to use dispersants in the event of an oil spill from an offshore installation. Any special conditions attached to a particular licence should also be adhered to.

- (i) In general, when a spill occurs at an offshore installation (including a pipeline) it should not automatically be treated with dispersants but it should be reported to the Department of Mineral Resources and Department of Natural Resources immediately, and the slick should be tracked.
- (ii) However, if a spill occurs at an installation operating in any blocks wholly or partly within 25 miles of the coast or in an environmentally sensitive area (as established during the preparation of the oil spill contingency plan) and if the spill could contaminate the sea surface outside the immediate area (500m radius) of the installation, then the use of dispersants may be authorised by the Incident Command, NOSCP.

\* In all circumstances the incident must be reported to the Department of Mineral Resources and the Fisheries Department immediately.

\* The location of any oil remaining on the sea surface should be surveyed from the air as soon as possible after the incident and at least twice per day, until the clean-up operation is completed. The survey results should be reported to the Department of Mineral Resources and the Fisheries Department.

For the purpose of treating oil on the surface of the sea the product used must:-

- (a) be approved by a recognised licensing Authority (Incident Command NOSCP).

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- (b) be used in accordance with the conditions of that approval and
  - (c) the permission of the Incident Command NOSCP must be sought in advance on ALL proposals to use oil dispersants except in circumstances where a spill poses an immediate threat to human health or the safety of an installation.
  - (d) Where the spill is, or seems as though it may become extensive in size (e.g. a Blow-out, a fractured pipe or a damaged storage facility) there should be the earliest possible consultation with the Incident Command NOSCP. The consultation should take place through the channels established within the operator's contingency plan. Arrangements should be made to monitor the movement, spreading and emulsification of the oil so that a proper assessment can be made of whether and to what extent it is threatening the coast, fisheries, seabirds or other wildlife and of the action necessary to protect the threatened interest.
  - (e) Where a spill is quite clearly small (less than 1 tonne) and not increasing in volume, urgent consultation with the Incident Command NOSCP need not take place (although the spill must always be reported in accordance with regulations and in accordance with the channels established in the operator's contingency plan.). It will probably be unnecessary to use dispersants other than in exceptional circumstances [see 3(iii) above].
  - (f) In certain cases, however, because of the characteristics of the oil or the geographical location of an installation, it may be necessary to issue different and specific advice to the appropriate operator.

#### **4 ANNEXES**

1. Proforma for reporting of Oil/Chemical Spills from Platforms or other Installations at sea.
2. Contacts for Reporting Oil/Chemical Spills.

#### **5 NOTE**

Any queries concerning this Notice should be sent to the address below:-

Department of Mineral Resources  
Falkland Islands Government  
Stanley  
Falkland Islands

Tel: (+500) 27322  
Fax: (+500) 27321  
e-mail: [reporting@mineralresources.gov.fk](mailto:reporting@mineralresources.gov.fk)

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## Annex 1

### **PROFORMA FOR USE IN OIL/CHEMICAL SPILL REPORTING FROM OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS AND PIPELINES**

All reports of oil or chemical pollution at sea should be directed to the Fisheries Department either by VHF radio or telephone immediately after observation and assessment. This should be confirmed by a written (preferably emailed as below) report. The following table sets out the type and nature of information to be included in a report.

Observers of spillage should not delay sending a report. If certain information is lacking this may be provided at a later date.

To: Falkland Islands Government Department of Natural Resources (Fisheries)

VHF Channels: 16 and 10  
Telephone: + 500 27266  
Fax: + 500 27265  
**Email: [fishops@fisheries.gov.fk](mailto:fishops@fisheries.gov.fk)**

Out of office hours, call Fisheries Duty Officer (+500 53045).

If unable to contact either of the above, contact the Royal Falkland Islands Police:

Telephone: + 500 28100  
Fax: + 500 28110

Department of Mineral Resources

Telephone: +500 27322  
Fax: +500 27321  
**Email: [reporting@mineralresources.gov.fk](mailto:reporting@mineralresources.gov.fk)**

<b>Identity of Observer/Reporter</b>		
Full Name:	Organisation/Company:	
Contact Telephone No:	Contact E-Mail:	
<b>Incident Details</b>		
Operator/Organisation/Company Responsible for Incident:		
Date of Incident:	Time of Incident:	
Installation/Facility:	Fixed / Mobile (delete as applicable)	Field Name:
Latitude:	Longitude:	Quad & Block No.:
Location of spill/discharge (relative to installation)		
<b>Oil Release / Chemical Release or Permitted Discharge Notification (tick below and complete column details as applicable)</b>		
Oil Release Notification: <input type="checkbox"/>	Chemical Release Notification: <input type="checkbox"/>	Permitted Discharge Notification: <input type="checkbox"/>
Max Released (tonnes):	Quantity Released (kg):	Max oil discharged (tonnes):
Min Released (tonnes):	Chemical Name:	Min oil discharged (tonnes):
Type of Oil: Crude type Specific gravity Wax content Viscosity Asphaltene content Pour Point	Chemical Use:	Type of Oil: Crude type Specific gravity Wax content Viscosity Asphaltene content Pour Point
Tier of Response (1,2 or 3): (As per Oil Pollution Emergency Plan)	% oil if OBM or base oil:	Oil Conc. in discharge:
	Warning label:	Discharge rate m <sup>3</sup> /hr:
Appearance:	Appearance:	Appearance:
Approx. release area on sea surface (m <sup>2</sup> or km <sup>2</sup> ):	Approx. release area on sea surface (m <sup>2</sup> or km <sup>2</sup> ):	Approx. sheen area on sea surface (m <sup>2</sup> or km <sup>2</sup> ):
<b>Is Release Ongoing?</b> YES / NO (If YES PON8 must be updated & reported each 24 hr period unless otherwise directed by FIG)		
Release since last report (tonnes):	Total Release to date (tonnes):	
Estimated extent of spill (m3 [1,000litres/m3])		
Wind speed (kn):	Wind direction(degrees):	
Wave height (m):	Water depth (m) in spill area:	

Sea state:    Calm            Slight            Moderate            Rough            Very Rough			
Minimum distance from nearest shoreline (km):			
Minimum distance from nearest median line (km):			
Source of pollution:			
Cause of pollution:			
Have containment measures been deployed? Give details			
Have surveillance measures been deployed? Give details			
Have samples been collected for analysis?	Yes	No	
Have photographs been taken?	Yes	No	

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**Dispersant Use Information** (when seeking approval and after use)

Dispersant type(s)

Dispersant proprietary name(s)

Quantity used/proposed:

Method(s) of application:

Location of application:

Water depth in application area:

Have/were efficacy tests been undertaken to confirm hydrocarbons amenable to treatment?

Environmental sensitivities relevant to location(s) of application (including protected sites):

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**Annex 2  
CONTACT DIRECTORY**

**NOTE THAT THE COUNTRY CODE FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS IS +500**

**Government Related Organisations**

Department of Natural Resources (Fisheries)	Telephone Fax	27260/27266 27265
Department of Natural Resources (Agriculture)	Telephone Fax	27355 27352
Attorney General's Chambers	Telephone Fax	28460 27276
Environmental Planning Department	Telephone	28480
Falklands Conservation	Telephone Fax	22247 22288
FIGAS	Telephone Fax	27220 27309
Department of Mineral Resources,	Telephone Fax	27322 27321
Royal Falkland Islands Police	Telephone Fax	28100 28110

See National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for more details



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## **REPORTING OF OIL SPILLS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES**

Guidance has been requested on how and when to report oil spills to the Department with special emphasis on long term “sheens” from produced water discharges. *(The words “sheen” and “spill” are used interchangeably in this document).* The following points are intended to clarify the situation.

1. If the sheen does not result directly from the produced water stream it must be reported using form PON 8 regardless of its size. There is no lower limit to the size of spill/sheen reported.
2. If the sheen results from the produced water stream and the discharge contains in excess of 100 mg/l oil in water then it must be reported using form PON 8 regardless of its size. There is no lower limit to the size of spill/sheen reported.
3. If the sheen results from the produced water stream and the discharge contains less than 100 mg/l oil in water then a spill need not be reported. If the appearance of the sheen differs from the normal, or if another source or discharge is causing an unusual coloration of the water around the installation then the Department of Mineral Resources should be informed of the incident by telephone as soon as possible. This should not be treated or recorded as an oil spill. The purpose of the report will be to enable the Department to respond to enquiries from third parties (spotter planes, civilian aircraft, ship’s masters etc.)

The decision as to whether the sheen is “unusual” in appearance must be left to the common sense and judgement of the OIM at the time.

**This guidance has been simplified in order to assist with reporting only. The target value for produced water streams remains 40 mg/l.**

4. If a sheen is sighted from the installation, and it does not originate from that installation, then it must still be reported using a PON 8 form. There is no lower limit to the size of spill/sheen reported.

This guidance is intended to reflect the fact that all oil spills are reportable under law but that normally operating produced water streams are already reported via the installation’s oil record book.