



Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

The Offshore Chemicals and Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

The temporary modifications to the Offshore Chemicals Regulations 2002 (“OCR”) and the Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations (“OPPC Regulations”) introduced by the “The Offshore Chemicals and Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020” (“the 2020 Regulations”) will lapse at the end of 4th September 2021.

The Department advises the following:

- a) **On or before 4th September 2021:** The alternative procedures for public notice may be followed, but only where the effects of coronavirus, including any restrictions on movement, mean that it is not reasonably practicable for the public to inspect copies of documents at a specified address within the UK. Applicants will therefore need to make copies of relevant documents available for public inspection at a public website, and by requesting copies by post or electronically.
- b) **At any time on or after 5th September 2021, or where public inspection at a specified address is reasonably practicable:** The procedures to be followed when making a permit application will revert to those as set out under the OCR and OPPC Regulations. Applicants for such permits will therefore need to make copies of relevant documents available for public inspection at an address in the United Kingdom.
- c) **Where the period for public inspection of the permit application begins before 5th September 2021 and ends on or after that date, or where public inspection at a specified address becomes reasonably practicable during the public inspection period:** Applicants are advised to follow both procedures. Applicants should therefore publish copies of the application on a public website and make copies available on request by post or electronically (throughout the whole public inspection period), and also make a copy available for inspection at a specified address in the UK (once it is reasonably practicable to do so and in any event from 5th September 2021).

The above guidance is intended to assist permit applicants. However, applicants are reminded it is their responsibility to ensure that there is effective public participation and that they have fully complied with the public notice provisions (regulation 7 of the OCR and regulation 5A of the OPPC Regulations). Failure to comply with any of the requirements could delay the Department’s consideration of permit applications.

Should you have any queries regarding compliance with public notice provisions within the 2002 Regulations and the 2005 Regulations the Department would welcome early discussion prior to the submission of any permit applications.