

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT

ALERT NUMBER: 01/2011

ISSUE DATE: 06/10/11

INCIDENT / ALERT DETAILS:

Personnel with responsibility for oil pollution incident response must be competent, both in oil pollution incident response and in the use of their Oil Pollution Emergency Plan. DECC Oil Pollution Incident Response Training Guidelines for the UK Offshore Oil Industry must be followed as a minimum standard.

To help facilitate this operators of offshore installations, including mobile offshore drilling units, should take steps to strengthen their procedures associated with the mandatory training of offshore personnel responsible for responding to oil spill events. DECC has identified that it is now possible to track such mandatory training through the Vantage POB system. This provides a mechanism to strengthen assurance of emergency response training requirements and provides an audit trail of the individuals competence in this area.

INITIAL/ALERT FINDINGS:

Operators of offshore installations, including mobile offshore drilling units, are encouraged to strengthen their tracking of mandatory training for offshore response personnel requiring DECC level 1 Oil Spill Response Training by utilising the tracking feature of the Vantage POB system.

Vantage POB is already used by some Operators for tracking DECC level 1 training.

Although DECC level 1 training is not a mandatory field/course in the Vantage POB system DECC encourages Operators to treat it as such for identified response personnel within their organisations. Vantage POB is available and ready to be used at any point by all Operators working in UK waters to allow them to track this course.

The course is already set up and included within the Vantage POB system :-

Course Description as per Vantage POB - DECC Level 1 Offshore Spill Response

Course Code - DECC1

DECC Level 1 training consists of a 4 hour course (which may be undertaken by computer based training (CBT)). The course is accredited by the Nautical Institute . The course requires refresher training every 3 years.

Background-

Under the **Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998**, all operators of offshore installations are required to maintain an Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP).

The **Guidance Notes to Operators of UK Offshore Oil and Gas Installations (including pipelines) on Oil Pollution Emergency Plan Requirements** require that ‘personnel with responsibility for oil pollution incident response must be competent, both in oil pollution incident response and in the use of their OPEP. DECC Oil Pollution Incident Response Training Guidelines for the UK Offshore Oil Industry must be followed as a minimum standard. These requirements must be stated within the OPEP.’

DECC Oil Pollution Incident Response Training Guidelines for the UK Offshore Oil Industry state that ‘The OIM and other offshore personnel responsible for assessing oil spills and their consequence, activating contingency plans and reporting pollution incidents to authorities will be required to undertake a training module designed to ensure that they are able to undertake these activities. These training modules may be part of any approved OIM course or may be taken as a half-day course at a training centre or as distance learning modules, accredited by the Nautical Institute.’

‘On scene Responder Personnel must repeat a refresher update course within 3 years from the date of their original certificate to update any changes in legislation and as a review of their contingency arrangements. (4 hours)’

Web Link to Guidance : <https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/environment/msr1998.htm>

Further Information

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

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