



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT	
ALERT NUMBER: 003/2017	ISSUE DATE: 7 December 2017
INCIDENT / ALERT DETAILS: Note to Duty Holders, particularly those involved in the construction and commissioning of chemical and diesel storage tanks, regarding the potential for releases during tank filling operations.	
INITIAL/ALERT FINDINGS: A significant volume of chemical was released to sea as a result of an overflow during the commissioning of a chemical storage tank. The investigation identified a discrepancy between the design intent and actual construction of the tank. Consequently the overflow nozzle was at a lower level than was perceived to be the case. During the first decanting operation the tank was filled to a level above the overflow. This coupled with the subsequent syphon effect resulted in a significant release of chemical to sea. Duty holders, especially those involved in the construction and commissioning of new storage tanks, should verify the position of overflows to prevent loss of containment through an overflow event. Moreover duty holders are advised it may be prudent, where possible, to conduct first fills of tanks with water and employ a robust monitoring regime to identify any potential loss of containment.	
Further Information	



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

Offshore Environmental Inspectorate

AB1 Building

Crimon Place

Aberdeen

AB1 1BJ

Or:

offshore.inspectorate@beis.gov.uk