

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT

ALERT NUMBER: 001/2014

ISSUE DATE: 31 March 2014

INCIDENT / ALERT DETAILS:

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) have recently advised DECC that a number of operators are failing to comply with the current PON1 reporting requirements.

Operators are reminded that in accordance with current reporting requirements PON1s must be reported within 6 hours to;

- Aberdeen Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in addition to **immediate telephone notification** to the nearest MRCC Coastguard Station.
- Department of Energy and Climate Change; additional telephone notification is required to the Department for specific scenarios as detailed within the PON1 reporting guidance.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and any relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body (SNCB) in accordance with installation oil pollution emergency plan arrangements.

The MCA have conducted a review of PON1 reports submitted in January and February 2014 and established that of the 67 reports submitted only 12 telephone notifications were made to the nearest MRCC Coastguard Station.

In addition, DECC issued an Environmental Alert, number 03/2013, advising that approximately 1/3 of all PON1s (Version 1) submitted since 2011 had been outwith the required 6 hour timeframe. A review following the recent information from the MCA has established little improvement in this reporting figure.

INITIAL/ALERT FINDINGS:

Operators must ensure that the PON1 guidance is followed.

The PON1 is utilised by relevant authorities as a pollution incident notification system. It is therefore imperative that early notification is given to ensure the relevant information is provided to allow the authorities to assess that an effective response is being undertaken by the operator. In this regard it is expected that under normal circumstances incidents be notified electronically within 6 hours of an event being confirmed and/or identified. Should the electronic system be unavailable for any reason, the PON1 should be faxed to the authorities. Notification should not be delayed in order to close out actions or confirm full details of the incident. Initial notification should occur with additional information being forwarded at a later time by updating the original PON1, if applicable.

It is equally important in addition to the PON1 reporting process that an immediate telephone notification is made to the nearest MRCC Coastguard Station.

This Alert should be read in conjunction with Alert Number 03/2013 issued on 23 May 2013

Further Information

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

Offshore Environmental Inspectorate
Offshore Environment and Decommissioning
Atholl House
86-88 Guild Street
ABERDEEN
AB11 6AR

Or:

Offshore.inspectorate@decc.gsi.gov.uk