



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

Regulating Offshore oil and gas Installations during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Outbreak – Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning’s return to offshore inspection activity

The Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) previously advised external stakeholders of a pause in our operational activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and of our intention to start planning a return to offshore inspection activity as UK lockdown measures ease.

OPRED now plan to conduct a phased return to offshore inspection activity. This means that from October 2020 we will be undertaking offshore inspections and investigations alongside remote interventions. These will be undertaken in line with Government, Public Health guidance. It is our intention to comply whenever possible with reasonable duty holder and installation specific requirements for mobilisation in the interests of minimising the risk of Covid-19 transmission offshore.

As part of OPRED’s plan to return to offshore inspection work, the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has developed a risk assessment reporting a number of control measures to support mitigation of the risk of Environmental Inspectors contracting Covid-19 when carrying out offshore inspections.

One of the requisite control measures is for the BEIS Health & Safety team to review individual Operators’ Covid-19 specific risk assessments to ensure suitable measures and arrangements are in place, prior to inspectors travelling to offshore installations. As such, OPRED inspectors will ask Operators to provide a copy of their Covid-19 risk assessments and any related information.

It is not the intention of OPRED to formally inspect those risk assessments, but rather to review in conjunction with the BEIS generic risk assessment and make a determination that the risk of contracting Covid-19 is as low as reasonably practicable in order for OPRED staff to mobilise to offshore installations.

6th October 2020