



**ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT**

**ALERT NUMBER: 001/2024**

**ISSUE DATE: 7 June 2024**

**INCIDENT / ALERT DETAILS:**

The purpose of this Environmental Alert is to advise Offshore Installation Operators / Owners of a partial relaxation with regards to the required range for fog signals.

**INITIAL/ALERT FINDINGS:**

OPRED have recently given the following advice with regards to fog signal deterioration on Offshore Installations:

1. The installation's approved Consent to Locate (CtL) includes a Standard Marking Schedule (SMS), which requires the Consent Holder to *"have an auditable system to ensure that the Aids to Navigation (AtN) requirements specified in this Schedule and/or as required in the consent are fully complied with at all times"*.
2. SMS paragraph 4(d) states *"The fog signal emitter(s) shall be mounted at not less than 12 metres and not more than 35 metres above Mean High Water Springs (sea level in the case of floating rigs or vessels) and shall be so arranged that the fog signal shall have a usual range of at least 2 sea miles in any direction"*.
3. The following advice has been agreed with OPRED focal points for Consent to Locate:
  - a. The General Lighthouse Authorities (GLAs) have advised OPRED that a 25% reduction of the required Fog Signal range is acceptable i.e. where the required range is 2 nautical miles then 1.5 nm is acceptable.
  - b. This margin is to allow for the effects of wind direction/strength, fog / no fog, vessel engine noise, noise of waves hitting vessel hull, etc, which may result in the fog signal not achieving the usual range of 2nm achieved in optimal conditions.
  - c. Observed reductions in the usual fog signal range should be appropriately examined without undue delay (re-test in optimal conditions, test fog signal emitters), especially where a reduced range is repeatedly observed, such that Consent Holders assure themselves that fog signals are operating as designed and in optimal conditions will (i) comply with the CtL conditions and (ii) achieve performance standards for navigational aids.

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

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