



Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

Regulating Offshore oil and gas Installations during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Outbreak – 15 May 2020 Update

1. The Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning (OPRED) notified stakeholders on 08 April 2020 ([original Covid-19 communication](#)) of the actions we were taking to ensure the continuation of effective environmental regulation of the UK offshore oil & gas industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. OPRED provided an update on 17 April 2020 ([updated Covid-19 communication](#)) when the UK Government confirmed an extension to the period of lock down on 16 April 2020.
2. With the Scottish Government's announcement on 10 May 2020, that Covid-19 lock down measures will continue in Scotland for a further period, OPRED will continue to operate as previously communicated, while ensuring our regulatory activities are carried out virtually where possible. During this period, OPRED will begin planning for a resumption of inspection activities at operators' premises or offshore, where individual circumstances and safety considerations allow this to occur.
3. The safety of OPRED staff and stakeholders continues to be of primary importance. As such, OPRED will continue to be guided by the specific needs and characteristics of the offshore oil & gas industry and will ensure any proposed resumption of regulatory activities is in accordance with advice from the UK and Scottish Government, Public Health England and Health Protection Scotland when considering our short, mid and long-term planning.
4. We will keep the situation under continual review. Further updates will be communicated to stakeholders on our website and through our full range of online and offline communication channels.

UK Oil Spill Response Training Certificate Validity

1. On 18 March 2020, the Nautical Institute advised all oil spill response training providers that due to the Covid-19 outbreak, and the need to limit personal contact, that all spill response training certificates at OPEP levels 2, 3 & 4 which are due to expire before 30th June 2020, will remain valid until at least that date.
2. Given the continuing social distancing and challenges around providing classroom training, the period of certificate validity for these courses has now been extended to 31 August 2020.
3. The MCA, OPRED and Nautical Institute will keep the situation under review and advise of any further extensions.
4. Note that there is no certification extension for OPEP Level 1, as this is Computer Based Training.