



The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020

Transitional Provisions & PETS Changes

The introduction of the Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) mean that there will be transitional implications where submissions for directions and Environmental Statements made under the Offshore Petroleum Production and Pipe-lines (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1999 (“the 1999 Regulations”) have not been concluded at the time the 2020 Regulations come into force (31 Dec 2020). Introducing the 2020 Regulations has also led to some changes and enhancements to the PETS system.

Transitional Provisions

Where any direction applications submitted under the 1999 Regulations have not been concluded at the point the 2020 Regulations come into force, they will be issued under the 1999 Regulations as set out in regulation 29 of the 2020 Regulations.

Where any Environmental Statements submitted under the 1999 Regulations have not been concluded at the point the 2020 Regulations come into force, they will be progressed under the 1999 Regulations up to the point where provisions relate to the decision making process. All Environmental Statements will be subject to the decision making provisions set out in the 2020 Regulations.

PETS Changes

Users will not be able to initiate directions or vary existing directions under the 1999 Regulations after the date the 2020 Regulations come into force, nor will they be able to initiate screening directions under the 2020 Regulations before the date the 2020 Regulations come into force.

After the 2020 Regulations come into force, and where the developer proposes changes to a project for which a direction was issued under the 1999 Regulations, the developer will need to submit a new screening direction SAT under the existing MAT. As with the existing system, submission of the new SAT under the existing MAT will allow for the changes to the screening direction document (uploaded to the MAT) to be captured.

Drilling projects

Under the 2020 Regulations, users will be able to submit screening directions for drilling projects (PETS SAT will continue with the ref: DR) under the DRA MAT. However, SATs related to Extended Well Testing (EWT) will no longer be available. Instead, the DR SAT will contain subsections on EWT and deposits (i.e. in relation to rig stabilisation).



Pipeline projects

Under the 2020 Regulations, users will be able to submit screening directions for pipeline projects (PETS SAT will continue with ref: PL) under the PLA MAT. However, SATs related to deposits (DEP SATs) will no longer be available. Instead, the PL SAT will contain subsections on deposits (i.e. in relation to protective and support materials for pipelines).

Production projects

Under the 2020 Regulations, users will be able to submit screening directions for production projects (PETS SAT new ref: PR) under the PRA MAT. The screening direction options have been enhanced, for example - to cover projects related to storage of carbon dioxide and gas unloading and storage.

The descriptions of the screening direction type have been amended to reflect the language used in Schedule 2 of the 2020 Regulations (see annex). For example, under the 1999 Regulations, the user would be able to submit an increase in production SAT (PETS SAT existing ref: IP) for a primary field where an increase in production was planned that was below the criteria for an Environmental Statement. After the 2020 Regulations come into force, the user will be able to apply for a screening direction (PETS SAT new ref: PR) and select the option from the sub-type list – “Change to a previously approved Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 project from a primary field, whereby the change itself does not exceed extraction rates of either 500 tonnes/day of oil and/or 500,000 cubic metres/day of gas”.

Other changes to the PETS screening direction include:

- The MAT justification document will be referred to as the Environmental Assessment Justification (EAJ).
- The screening direction will include a statement on whether the Secretary of State agrees to the grant of consent.
- The screening direction will include the main reasons for the decision, with reference to the matters listed in Schedule 5 of the 2020 Regulations.
- Screening directions will be made publicly available on GOV.UK.

Should you have any queries on the above, please contact BST@beis.gov.uk.

Kind regards
Business Support Team



Annex

The 2020 Regulations

PETS MAT & SAT References

Drilling Operations

MAT Ref: DRA
SAT Refs: DR
SAT Ref description: Screening direction to undertake drilling operations
Notes: EWT and deposits elements contained as subsections in the DR SAT.

Pipeline Operations

MAT Ref: PLA
SAT Refs: PL
SAT Ref description: Screening direction for a pipeline, where the pipeline is for the transport of oil, or gas, or chemicals or for the transport of carbon dioxide for the purpose of geological storage, or for the purpose of providing power or fuel
Notes: Deposits elements contained as subsection in the PL SAT.

MAT Ref: PLA
SAT Refs: PL
SAT Ref description: Screening direction for a change to or extension of a previously approved Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 project involving a pipeline, where the pipeline is for the transport of oil, gas, or chemicals or for the transport of carbon dioxide for the purpose of geological storage, or for the purpose of providing power or fuel
Notes: Deposits elements contained as subsection in the PL SAT.

Production Operations

MAT Ref: PRA
SAT Refs: PR
SAT Ref description: Screening direction for a surface installation for the extraction of oil and/or gas
Notes: n/a

MAT Ref: PRA
SAT Refs: PR
SAT Ref description: Screening direction for a project to extract oil and/or gas from a primary field, where extraction rates are less than 500 tonnes/day for oil or 500,000 cubic metres/day for gas
Notes: n/a



MAT Ref: PRA
SAT Refs: PR
SAT Ref description: Screening direction for a project to extract oil and/or gas from a subsidiary field, where extraction rates are less than 500 tonnes/day for oil or 500,000 cubic metres/day for gas
Notes: n/a

MAT Ref: PRA
SAT Refs: PR
SAT Ref description: Screening direction for a gas unloading and storage project
Notes: n/a

MAT Ref: PRA
SAT Refs: PR
SAT Ref description: Screening direction for a change to a previously approved Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 project from a primary field, whereby the change itself does not exceed extraction rates of either 500 tonnes/day of oil and/or 500,000 cubic metres/day of gas
Notes: n/a

MAT Ref: PRA
SAT Refs: PR
SAT Ref description: Screening direction for a change to a previously approved Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 project from a subsidiary field, whereby the change itself does not exceed extraction rates of either 500 tonnes/day of oil and/or 500,000 cubic metres/day of gas
Notes: n/a

MAT Ref: PRA
SAT Refs: PR
SAT Ref description: Screening direction for a change to a previously approved Schedule 1 project for the geological storage of carbon dioxide
Notes: n/a