



Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

**THE CONTROL OF MERCURY (ENFORCEMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (“THE
MERCURY REGULATIONS”)**

AND

**THE TRANSFRONTIER SHIPMENT OF WASTE REGULATIONS 2007 AS AMENDED
 (“THE TFSW REGULATIONS”)**

**UPDATE ON ANNUAL REQUESTS TO OFFSHORE OIL & GAS OPERATORS FOR
DATA ON MERCURY WASTE STREAMS AND WASTE EXPORTS**

We are contacting you to advise that following recent discussions with the Competent Authorities (CAs) we have been informed that at this time they no longer require from OPRED the annual datasets relating to any mercury waste streams and waste exports which emanated from offshore oil and gas installations. We had previously provided this data to the CAs to support their respective enforcement functions under the Mercury Regulations and TFSW Regulations¹.

Therefore, we confirm that OPRED will cease circulating to operators of offshore oil and gas installations annual information requests seeking data in respect to any mercury waste streams and waste exports which occurred as result of operational activities during the preceding calendar year². Should this situation change in the future, then we will notify you accordingly. However, offshore operators will, of course, need to continue complying - as appropriate - with the other pertinent requirements of the Mercury Regulations and TFSW Regulations as enforced by the CAs.

We hope this update is helpful.

**Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning (OPRED)
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)**

Date: January 2021

¹ The obligations of the Mercury Regulation (EU) 2017/852 and the Shipments of Waste Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006, as respectively enforced by the Mercury Regulations and TFSW Regulations, have been retained in UK law (after the end of the Transition Period) by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (“the 2018 Act”). Any potential deficiencies in the application of the EU Regulations as retained UK law were addressed by subsequent legislation such as the Control of Mercury (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and the International Waste Shipments (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 which were enacted pursuant to powers under section 8(1) of, and paragraph 21 of Schedule 7 to, the 2018 Act.

² Operators of IED permitted offshore oil and gas installations will receive separate requests for data on waste exports as part of the future annual UK Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (UK-PRTR) validation exercises which will be conducted by OPRED.