



Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning

**Offshore Petroleum Regulator for
Environment and Decommissioning**

**Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero**

AB1 Building
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Aberdeen

AB10 1BJ

E: OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/desn

22 December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Request for Information Regarding Status of Trained Oil Spill Response Personnel and Oil Pollution Emergency Plan Exercises for 2024

MERCHANT SHIPPING (OIL POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND CO- OPERATION CONVENTION) REGULATIONS 1998 (as amended)

As you will be aware, personnel with oil spill response duties must be trained appropriately with oil spill response exercises undertaken in accordance with the above Regulations and the Guidance Notes for Preparing Oil Pollution Emergency Plans (OPEPs).

Regulation 4(9) of The Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998 (as amended) states;

Every responsible person must—

- (a) maintain equipment and expertise relevant to the oil pollution emergency plan which is approved in respect of matters for which the person is responsible;
- (b) ensure that such equipment and expertise is available for use at all times;
- (c) make such equipment and expertise available to the authorities responsible for the execution of the National Contingency Plan;
- (d) undertake exercises to maintain relevant expertise for the implementation of the plan, including interaction with the National Contingency Plan;
- (e) retain evidence of those exercises; and
- (f) provide such evidence to the Secretary of State, if so required by the Secretary of State by written notice.

As a 'Responsible Person'* under the regulations and the holder of an Oil Pollution Emergency Plan you are therefore required to provide the Department with the following information for the 2024 year within the attached template:

- Details of staff currently trained and to what OPEP Training Level (1-4) within your organisation; and
- Details of all oil spill response exercises undertaken during 2024.

Where certain OPEP Training Level provision is provided by a third-party contractor e.g. OSRL, Briggs, Ambipar, etc please provide confirmation of that. Details of third-party contractor staff is not required.

You are required to complete the sections contained within the Oil Spill Response Training and Exercise Template, confirming:

- Names, position and installation of personnel trained to OPEP Training Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4, including date the most recent training / refresher was completed and by which training provider;
- The date(s) the offshore OPEP was exercised for each installation / OPEP in the stipulated year; and
- The date(s) the onshore OPEP was exercised in the stipulated year.

An electronic copy of your response should be sent by **30th January 2026** to OPRED@energysecurity.gov.uk

Failure to provide the information by this date may result in further inspection activities by the Department.

Should you have any questions regarding the content of this letter please contact the team using the above inbox details. If you are not the correct person in your organisation to deal with this, can I ask you to forward this on to the appropriate person.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Taylor

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

** Responsible Person is defined by Regulation 2*

“responsible person” means in relation to—

- a) production installation and its connected infrastructure, subject to paragraph (c), the operator in relation to the installation or connected infrastructure;*
- b) a non-production installation and its connected infrastructure, subject to paragraph (c), the person entitled to control the operation of the installation; and*
- c) well operations, the well operator, and “matters for which a responsible person is responsible” shall be construed accordingly;*