

Annual Well Intervention well campaign applications and Production Permit review: a reminder to Industry

25 September 2026

Permit Holders should submit their Annual WIA chemical permit applications and Annual PRA chemical permit variations by **Friday 13 November 2026**. Applications submitted by this date should allow sufficient time for consultation, review and determination before **1 January 2027**, provided that any comments are addressed promptly.

Annual Well Intervention Application (WIA) campaign chemical permits

Permit Holders must submit a new application to OPRED each year for WIA campaigns planned for the following calendar year. This application is informally referred to as an “Annual WIA” chemical permit. Annual WIA permits usually run from January to December, enabling OPRED to meet its OSPAR reporting obligations.

For activities being undertaken on multiple wells during the same calendar year, the permit will always expire on 31 December. However, if the permit does not need to commence on 1 January of the same calendar year, the permit can be applied for anytime during that calendar year. If the well activities need to continue into a new calendar year, then the Permit Holder should apply for a new permit and must have that permit approved prior to the commencement of the new calendar year.

The submission deadline is Friday 13 November 2026, although operators may submit their Annual WIA applications at any time before that date. Submission by the deadline should allow OPRED sufficient time to complete consultation, review and determination before 1 January 2027, provided that minimal comments are raised. Permit Holders requiring approval from 1 January 2027 should respond promptly to any comments raised during the review.

Information to note

- Each Annual WIA chemical permit application requires a new Chemical Permit SAT, submitted under a new WIA MAT. The WIA MAT and Environmental Assessment Justification (EAJ) used for the 2026 chemical permit must not be reused as the 2027 application documents. However, documents for an ongoing campaign are likely to contain substantial overlap.
- Each WIA permit application covering multiple wells must identify the wells included and specify the activities planned for each well. This information must be recorded in the EAJ and, where applicable, in the Project Information section of the MAT.
- The level of detail in the EAJ should be proportionate to the proposed activities.

Before submitting

- Confirm that the application identifies every well and the activities planned for each well.
- Submit a new Chemical Permit SAT under a new WIA MAT, with the relevant information reflected in the EAJ and, where applicable, the Chemical Risk Assessment (CRA), and Project Information section of the MAT.

- Check that the EAJ is proportionate to the proposed activities and reflects the legislation under which the application is submitted.
- Respond promptly to any comments raised during OPRED's review to minimise the risk of delayed approval.

Annual review of Production Application (PRA) chemical permits

The Annual PRA exercise is undertaken every year, whereby Permit Holders submit a variation to their PRA to include their proposed chemical use/discharge data for the following year or to review the following year's data should that year already be listed in the SAT. The deadline for submission is by Friday 13 November 2026. Submitting a permit application by the deadline should allow sufficient time for the consultation, review and determination process of the chemical permit variations to be completed by OPRED. Should any comments be raised during the review process, operators are reminded that these should be addressed promptly to avoid the potential for any delays to approval.

A PRA chemical permit variation must include offshore chemical use and/or discharge for the next year of operations (2027) and it is at the Permit Holder's discretion whether to include a forecast for two additional years of chemical use and discharge in the SAT. The Permit Holder must ensure that the use and discharge of chemicals for the next calendar year (2027) have been approved prior to 1 January of that year.

Information to note

- If approval for chemical use and discharge has not been obtained prior to 1 January for ongoing activities, then the Permit Holder will be considered as undertaking activities without the chemicals being approved on the permit and therefore may be subject to investigation and enforcement action.
- When submitting the variation to the PRA to include additional years, if there are no changes to chemical use, discharge and associated modelling from the previous year i.e. the 2027 chemical data is an exact copy of the 2026 data, then the variation to add the 2027 data can be submitted in the usual timeframe (approximately three working days before approval is required). In such circumstances the Permit Holder should confirm, in the Change Summary, that there is no change between 2026 and 2027 for chemical use, discharge and associated modelling.
- Should an operator copy and paste the chemical data from the previous year, please ensure that the OCNS registration of all offshore chemical products has not expired. If the OCNS registration of a chemical product has expired, then the operator must remove the chemical product from the 2027 data unless proof of recertification or proof of existing stocks within their ownership can be provided.
- It is expected that the PRA EAJ is also reviewed at this time by the Permit Holder to ensure that the contents is still accurate, that the operations described and assessed are still relevant and that the environmental information is up to date. Any amendments made to any of the PRA documents must be highlighted prior to submission to OPRED.
- Please note that the Department will not expedite the approval process for any variations submitted after Friday 13 November 2026 and Permit Holders therefore risk enforcement action if they do not have an approved chemical permit that includes the use and discharge of those

chemicals in 2027 by 1 January 2027. Permit Holders are reminded to **be mindful of the national holiday period** when planning permit variations.