



Decommissioning on the UK Continental Shelf - an overview of regulations

Version 4 - May 2018



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A note from Decom North Sea

“Whether you consider current regulation to be light touch or draconian, the impact of legislation cannot be ignored in our industry. Nowhere is this more poignant than in the decommissioning sector where those responsible have a clear obligation to consult with numerous stakeholders and seek acceptance of their plans from the relevant regulators.

The applicable law is multi-layered and thus complex with international law and treaties, regional treaties and multiple jurisdictions of national law applying. What is also clear is that the interpretation of the relevant legislation and application is key.

Guides such as this one, which seeks to both catalogue the relevant statutes, regulations and regulatory guidance; and to clarify their application, are a useful aid in understanding the obligations and processes required to be carried out.

Knowledge of these areas is useful to both the Operators, who are generally charged with following the required processes and gaining acceptance of their plans, and to the various sectors of the supply chain. Without a clear understanding of the license holder and Operator obligations, the service sector cannot optimise its offering.

Guidance such as this is invaluable for the industry. Decom North Sea works to ensure that a robust, global supply chain exists with the capacity and capability to undertake these complex end of field life projects. Our members are representative of the whole oil and gas industry with regulator, Operator, contractor and consultant members. Our primary role as a member organisation is to bring value to our members and support them.

It should be noted that with improved understanding of the challenges posed by decommissioning of complex aged offshore facilities, increased regulatory engagement in many aspects of the preparation, removal and disposal chain, and newly developed regulatory guidance available, the industry is in a different place to just a few years ago. It is therefore highly commendable that Bureau Veritas have taken the initiative to revise this guide and once again share it with the wider sector community.”



Tom Leeson
Interim Chief Executive
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A note from Bureau Veritas

We would like to thank the many contributors to this industry guideline. Bureau Veritas Technical experts from across the Group, including subsidiary companies MatthewsDaniel, TMC Marine and Maritime Assurance and Consulting (MAC). In addition we would like to acknowledge the contribution of our collaboration partners, Stuart Wright, ERM, EM&I, Weston Compliance and of course for the on-going support of the Decom North Sea team.

We hope this guideline will support all those involved in the North Sea Decommissioning process over the years to come and also provide some valuable input to other Oil and Gas regions who will face the decommissioning challenge in the future.



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1 *Executive Summary*

The Challenge of Offshore Decommissioning

In the years to come, offshore decommissioning activity in the North Sea will inevitably increase as existing field infrastructure approaches the end of its useful life.

The decommissioning challenge involves the removal of structures from the world's most inhospitable environments. The physical process of taking offshore fixed installations out of service safely and securely is a sensitive, complex and technically formidable undertaking.

The legislation governing offshore decommissioning activities presents its own unique set of challenges; the legal obligations required of Operators, engineers and project managers are demanding and detailed, but unavoidable.

Maintaining complete compliance and operational best practice is fundamental to the success of the entire decommissioning process. Those responsible for decommissioning need to partner with experts who have the strategic strength and proven competence to deliver it all.

Understanding Offshore Decommissioning Regulations

'Decommissioning on the UK Continental Shelf' provides clear details of the regulations that apply to offshore decommissioning projects and provides guidance to Operators to achieve full compliance with the relevant legislation.

This detailed report describes necessary procedures for Operators and duty holders to plan, execute and follow-up decommissioning work. For clarity, principal legislative and regulatory obligations are highlighted and recapitulated with extensive references to supporting information where further guidance can be obtained.

Note:

Legislation, Regulatory regimes and guidance changes on an on-going basis, as such, best practice and the applied use of derogation cases evolves over time.

Bearing this in mind, this 'overview' should be treated as a living document which will also evolve over time as a result of the above noted changes.

This report should not be read in isolation from other relevant legislation, government policy and international obligations.

Any and all comments on the content of the guide are welcome and can be submitted to the following e-mail address: :

decommissioning@uk.bureauveritas.com

2 *Report Structure*

This report aims to provide guidance for every person involved in decommissioning for fixed installations and pipelines and outlines all potential situations and requirements that are based on the legislation applicable to the United Kingdom Continental Shelf.

The report is organised into the following main sections:

A Guide to Regulatory Process for Decommissioning defines the structure on which this report is based and details the main decommissioning options, key regulations and, the main bodies that are involved in the decommissioning process.

A Guide to Regulatory Process for Decommissioning of Fixed Installations provides information in cases where a platform is dismantled entirely or with some elements left on the seabed. This section describes the process of the entire decommissioning of a platform (the base case), and also details the adjustments that should be made when installation remains are left on the seabed (a derogation case).

A Guide to Regulatory Process for Pipeline Decommissioning describes legislative specifications, deferment or phasing and planning issues relating to pipeline decommissioning. The requirements for platform and pipeline decommissioning are described in separate sections because the owner of a platform may not be the owner of the pipeline to which it is connected.

Other Mandatory Regulations lists and describes all other relevant regulations. Although these regulatory requirements may not be directly related to oil and gas sector activities, they are, nonetheless, applicable and mandatory. These regulations cover obligations including waste management, safety and environmental issues.

3 *Acronyms & Definitions*

BEIS	Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
CEFAS	Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CITES	Conventions on International Trade in Endangered Species
CoP	Cessation of Production
DEFRA	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
DPN	Disused Pipeline Notification
EA	Environment Agency
EEMS	Environmental Emissions Monitoring System
EMT	(BEIS) Environmental Management Team
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
EUETS	EU Emissions Trading Scheme
FEPA	Food Environment Protection Agency
FSO	Floating Storage and Offloading
FPSO	Floating Production Storage and Offloading
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IHM	Inventory of Hazardous Materials
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LSA	Low Specific Activity
MAT	Master Application Template
NORM	Normally Occurring Radioactive Material
OCR	Offshore Chemical Regulations
OEI	Offshore Environmental Inspectorate
OGA	Oil & Gas Authority
OPEP	Oil Pollution Emergency Plan
OPPC	Oil Pollution, Prevention and Control

OPRED	Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (Part of BEIS)
OSDR	The Offshore Safety Directive Regulator
OSPAR	Oslo/Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic
PETS	(UK Oil) Portal Environmental Tracking System
REACH	Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals Regulations
RNW	Radio Navigation Warning
SAT	Subsidiary Application Template
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
UKCS	United Kingdom Continental Shelf

In this document, in line with, “*The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015*, definitions are as follows”:

- A fixed installation means an installation which cannot be moved from place to place without major dismantling or modification, whether or not it has its own motive power;
- An installation means an offshore installation within the meaning of regulation 3 “meaning of offshore installation” of *The Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulations 1995*.



A Guide to Regulatory Process for Decommissioning



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4 *A Guide to Regulatory Process for Decommissioning*

Under current UK Legislation, all UKCS fixed installations and connected pipelines should be decommissioned and dismantled at the end of field life. For legal reasons, the decommissioning must be total and nothing can be left in place, however, if there are significant reasons that are defined by the law as to why an alternative should be considered, legislation offers alternative options which are detailed in this chapter.

This chapter also describes the regulatory bodies associated with offshore decommissioning.

4.1 THE MAIN DECOMMISSIONING OPTIONS

Two primary decommissioning options exist under current UK legislation, although a third option is applicable to pipeline decommissioning. All three options are outlined below and are covered in detail in later chapters.

4.1.1 Option One: Complete decommission

According to the *OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations* the complete decommission solution is a requirement for all fixed installations installed on/after 9th February 1999. For fixed installations installed before 9th February 1999, UK law requires platform owners to work towards complete decommission where practicable, as this is the most environmentally sensitive solution available.

4.1.2 Option Two: Leaving the installation partly in place

Under certain circumstances, the installation may remain wholly or partly in situ. As per *OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations*, this is the case for:

- a. all or part of the footings of a steel installation in a category listed in Annex 1, placed in the maritime area before 9 February 1999, to be left in place;
- b. a concrete installation in a category listed in Annex 1 or constituting a concrete anchor base, to be dumped or left wholly or partly in place;
- c. any other disused offshore installation to be dumped or left wholly or partly in place, when exceptional and unforeseen circumstances resulting from structural damage or deterioration, or from some other cause presenting equivalent difficulties, can be demonstrated.

Any element that the Operator expects to remain in situ, must be determined in consultation with the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED), part of the Energy & Security Directorate in BEIS and supported by studies as required by OPRED.

4.1.3 Option Three: Leaving pipelines wholly in place

As with Option Two above and, under certain circumstances, i.e. for reasons of safety or technical complexity, the most suitable option may be to leave the pipeline wholly in place. It is important to note that pipeline decommissioning is not covered by the provisions of *OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations*.

The Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996, administered by the HSE, require that:

- The Operator shall ensure that a pipeline which has ceased to be used for the conveyance of any fluid is left in a safe condition;
- The Operator of a pipeline shall ensure that work done in discharge of the duty contained above is performed safely.

Decommissioning proposals for pipelines should be contained within a separate programme from that for installations.

4.2 MAIN LEGISLATION

Petroleum Act 1998 (as amended by the Energy Act 2016)

The purpose of the *Petroleum Act 1998* is to regulate petroleum exploration and production. The Act is divided into five parts and the section relating to decommissioning is *Part IV: Abandonment of Offshore Installations*.

Under the terms of the Act, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy can request that the appropriate parties submit a detailed programme of the proposed decommissioning measures.

N.B. Within the Act, such decommissioning measures are referred to as 'the Abandonment Programme'. The Abandonment Programme is commonly referred to in standard documentation and guidelines as the 'Decommissioning Programme'.

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's definition of who is required to submit a decommissioning programme is set out in *Section 29* of the Act; those parties will receive what is commonly referred to as a *Section 29 Notice* or *Notice under Section 29*. These parties are referred to in this report as *Section 29 Notice Holders*.

NB: *Section 30 of the Petroleum Act 1998* specifies who should receive a *Notice under Section 29*.

The Decommissioning Programme constitutes one of the primary documents required for approval of decommissioning projects.

Energy Act 2016

The *Energy Act 2016* modifies a number of sections of the *Petroleum Act 1998* namely the transfer of certain functions of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to the Oil & Gas Authority (OGA) and the extension to Northern Ireland of Part 1A of the *Petroleum Act* "Maximising Economic Recovery of UK Petroleum". Part IV is related to the abandonment of offshore installations.

References to specific amendments are made within this document.

OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations

The Oslo / Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR) is the mechanism by which fifteen Governments of the western coasts and catchments of Europe, together with the European Community, cooperate to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

OSPAR Decision 98/3 defines those cases in which the decommissioning options mentioned can be considered.

The Decision states, "The dumping, and the leaving wholly or partly in place, of disused offshore installations within the maritime area is prohibited".

However, Paragraph 3 of the *OSPAR Decision 98/3* defines certain conditions under which the installation can be left partly in place. If, following specific studies such as a comparative assessment are performed by the Section 29 Notice Holder, the option is chosen to leave the installation partly in place, this course of action will constitute a derogation from the general rule of *OSPAR Decision 98/3*.

Section 29 Notice Holders must apply for derogation and meet pre-defined requirements before a permit allowing the derogation is issued by the OSPAR Commission.

Note that *OSPAR Decision 98/3* applies only to the decommissioning of disused offshore installations.

The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015

According to *The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015* there is a requirement for acceptance by the HSE of a safety case for the dismantlement of a fixed installation.

The Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 2005 have been revised to incorporate the provisions of *Directive 2013/30/EU "Safety of Offshore Oil & Gas Operations"*.

Among the major revisions:

- Revised definition of major accidents;
- Definition of major environmental incident;
- Update of terminology and definitions from safety critical elements to safety and environmental critical elements;
- Introduction of the need for UK registered company conducting, itself or through a subsidiary, offshore oil and gas operations outside the European Union as a licensee, Operator or well operator to report to the competent authority, on request, the circumstances of any major accident in which it or its subsidiary has been involved.

4.3 THE MAIN BODIES

Decommissioning work is complex, regulated by different protocols and requires that various parties shall be involved or consulted. The main bodies are defined as follows:

BEIS

The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) was formed on the 14th of July 2016 and brings together the former Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

BEIS EMT & OEI

The Environmental Management Team and Offshore Environmental Inspectorate are providing advice on all environmental aspects of decommissioning proposals. It approves related consent including Marine Licensing.

OPRED

The OPRED (Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning), formally known as OGED (The Oil and Gas Environment and Decommissioning section), are a fully functional and connected part of BEIS and act as the regulator for offshore decommissioning programme approval, execution and monitoring, as well as offshore environmental management and inspection.

OPRED has overarching responsibility for approval and regulation of all Decommissioning Programmes for UKCS Oil & Gas installations, pipelines, etc. making sure that decommissioning is delivered in a safe, efficient and cost effective manner whilst minimising the risk to the environment and other users of the sea.

They must be consulted at every stage of the decommissioning project, from the programme commencement (which can be up to five years before physical work begins in the case of complex projects) until the post-decommissioning surveys have been conducted.

OPRED is also the competent authority on decommissioning in the UK for OSPAR (international regulations) purposes.

OGA

The Energy Act 2016 established the Oil & Gas Authority (OGA) as an independent Government Company and Regulator tasked with maximising economic recovery of offshore UK petroleum. The 2016 Act inserted into the 1998 Act new powers for, and obligations on, the OGA and others in terms of consulting OGA, regarding decommissioning.

OSDR

The Offshore Safety Directive Regulator (OSDR) is the Competent Authority responsible for implementing the requirements of the EU Directive 203/30/EU on the safety of offshore oil and gas operations.

The HSE and OPRED will work in partnership with OSDR to deliver the Component Authority Functions as required under the Directive.

The OSDR is responsible for assessing the revised Safety Case, or the Safety Case in respect of the dismantling of a fixed installation.

The OSDR is both a consultee and regulator within the Decommissioning Programme.

OSPAR Commission

The OSPAR Commission was formed by the administrators of the Oslo and Paris Conventions to protect and conserve the North-East Atlantic and its resources.

The Commission comprises of fifteen governments and the EU; each is referred to as a Contracting Party. A 'relevant Contracting Party' refers to a party that has jurisdiction over specific offshore installations.

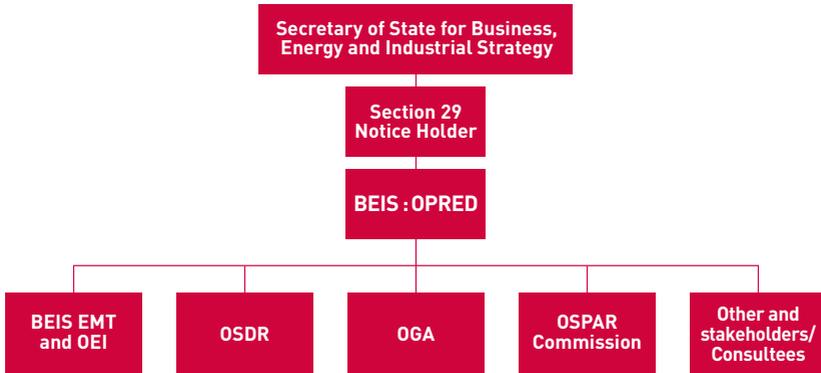
In the event that a Section 29 Notice Holder requests derogation from the general rule of *OSPAR Decision 98/3* on the *Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations*, each relevant Contracting Party is consulted and able to make representations and comments on the request.

There are other OSPAR Decisions relevant to decommissioning which will be further quoted in this document.

Conclusion

Within the UKCS, various parties have responsibilities within the regulatory framework governing fixed installations, each having different duties and responsibilities during a decommissioning programme.

The following figure summarises the link between these parties.



- Section 29 Notice Holders will be asked to submit a Decommissioning Programme on a fixed date following consultation with BEIS:OPRED.
- There could be one or more Section 29 Notice Holders. If there is more than one Section 29 Notice Holder, parties may work together to submit the Decommissioning Programme, although only one company will serve as the main point of contact. This is usually the Operator, who will submit the programme(s) on behalf of the Section 29 Notice Holders.
- The Energy Act 2016 has introduced a duty on section 29 Notice Holders to consult the Oil and Gas Authority before submitting a decommissioning programme and to frame the programme so as to ensure (whether by timing of the measures proposed, the inclusion of provision for collaboration or otherwise) that the cost of carrying out the programme is kept to the minimum that is reasonably practicable in the circumstances
- *Section 30 of the Petroleum Act 1998* specifies who can receive a notice under Section 29. Typically the Operator and the Owner are the Section 29 Notice Holders.

4.4 SUMMARY

This chapter has defined the high-level decommissioning options, the main regulations and the primary bodies concerning offshore decommissioning.



A Guide to Regulatory Process for Decommissioning of Fixed Installations



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5 *A Guide to Regulatory Process for the Decommissioning of fixed installations*

This chapter describes the regulatory process and obligations for decommissioning of fixed installations. It covers requests for deferred or phased decommissioning, Cessation of Production (CoP) permit applications and obligations and dismantlement safety cases in early and final decommissioning stages. In line with revised regulations, in *Part II of the Petroleum Act 1998* as amended by the *Energy Act 2016*, interpretations clarify that “installations” include any floating structure or device maintained on a station by whatever the means.

This chapter also deals specifically with fixed installations, the requirements and procedures relating to production of the Decommissioning Programme and associated submission, consultation and approval.

The obligations of the Operator and other parties during and after the decommissioning programme are detailed and include references to environmental practices and post-decommissioning monitoring.

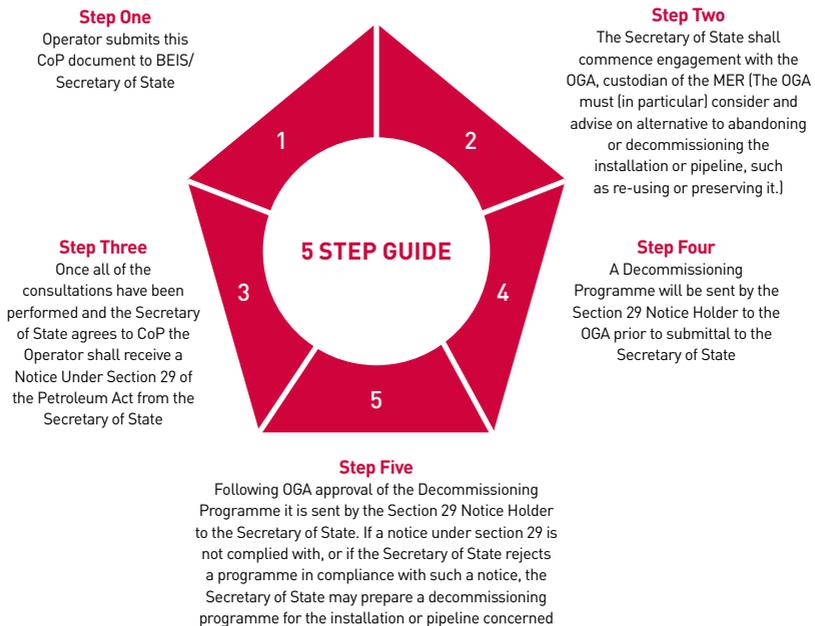
The above details are applied to both baseline and derogation cases, including the conditions that exist for a derogation application.

5.1 FOR ALL FIXED INSTALLATIONS

The main document required for any decommissioning operation is the Decommissioning Programme document. Development of the Decommissioning Programme document begins early in the installations lifecycle. The decommissioning programme must contain an estimate of the costs of the measures proposed in it. If the programme proposes that an installation or a pipeline be left in place or not wholly removed, it shall contain provisions as to any continuing maintenance that may be necessary.

In the *Energy Act 2016*, there is now a duty to act in accordance with the strategy for decommissioning and alternatives, namely maximising economic recovery with the OGA. This administrative procedure represents the commencement of a decommissioning initiative. The Decommissioning Programme document is the primary part of this initiative; other reports, studies and activities will be undertaken simultaneously or following it.

The diagram below summarises the administrative procedure that leads to the Decommissioning Programme itself:



It is possible to request a deferral or phased decommissioning schedule; however, it must be considered as early in the process as possible.

5.1.1 Requesting a deferred or a phased decommissioning

The Operator can request a deferment or a phased decommissioning in any circumstances, i.e. whether derogated or not. This section describes the reasons for a request and the procedure required to obtain such an authorisation.

Prerequisite	Notice under Section 29 reception (the time between these two steps can be considerable)
Regulations	<i>Petroleum Act 1998</i> See also: Guidance Notes 'Decommissioning of Offshore Oil and Gas Installations and Pipelines under the Petroleum Act 1998'
Responsibility of:	The Operator and all other Section 29 Notice Holders
To be referred to:	BEIS:OPRED

In what circumstances can a deferred decommissioning be requested?

A deferred decommissioning can be requested as part of a robust case of specific opportunity (e.g. if the Operator believes that further oil exploration or extraction could take place within the field or if existing reservoirs could be utilised for gas).

What factors could lead to a request for a phased decommissioning?

- Market factors.
- Potential Re-Use of Infrastructure.
- Vessel availability, i.e. the coordination of offshore work with other projects in a similar timescale can be beneficial and decommissioning work could be spread across a period of time.
- The potential to achieve savings through co-operation with other companies e.g. advances in technology.

What is the procedure for asking for a deferred or phased decommissioning?

As soon as any deferral or phasing is considered, the Operator should consult OPRED with a well-prepared case.

- If OPRED agrees with the deferral or phased decommissioning request, it will issue a formal letter setting out the conditions of the work. A date will also be fixed for the submission of the Decommissioning Programme.

NB: Other possibilities arise when the Decommissioning Programme document is required at the outset (particularly in the case of phased decommissioning), although it is also possible that the Operator will be allowed to prepare a document pertaining solely to the initial stages of decommissioning (i.e. the removal of the topside).

Refer to section 5.19 of the *BEIS Decommissioning Guidance Notes (Dec 2017)*.

Which factors will OPRED take into account when considering the deferral or phasing request?

- The physical condition of the installation.
- The presence of any hazards (potentially hazardous substances and accurate information about the nature and location of hazards).
- Operator will need to make arrangements to ensure installations which are to be left in place are suitably marked and lit for navigation purposes.
- OPRED with OSDR will also require strong evidence that:
- The integrity of the installation will be maintained or that any deterioration will not be such as to present unacceptable risks before, or compromise the execution of, decommissioning operations.

5.1.2 CoP Permit (Cessation of Production)

During the field development process, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will grant a production licence for the field. According to the law, the licensees shall not abandon any well without the consent in writing of the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. For this reason, the licensees will require a Cessation of Production (CoP) permit. OGA Licensing and Consent Unit Field Teams with OPRED will be consulted.

Prerequisite	Production licence granted by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Regulations	<i>Guidance notes for onshore field development plans, fdp addendums and cessation of production - OGA</i>
Responsibility of:	The Licensees
To be referred to:	OPRED and the OGA

In order to obtain the CoP permit, the licensees will need to provide evidence that all economic development opportunities have been pursued.

Licensees are required to satisfy the OGA that all economic development opportunities have been pursued. Approval of the decommissioning programme is contingent on the prior or agreed approval of CoP for the field.

To ensure that every opportunity has been considered, the initiation of discussions with BEIS ODU and the OGA relating to decommissioning should take place early (i.e. up to three years before the CoP is required for significant platforms).

If successful, at the end of these discussions, the licensees will need to submit a CoP document to OPRED and the OGA.

What is contained in the CoP Document?

The content of the CoP document that is submitted serves as the basis of the CoP agreement for the field and is dependent on OGA's requirements and whether previous oil and gas Field Development Plans (FDP) have been appropriately covered in previous field reports.

The Cessation of Production report should cover:

- Definition of economic limit and determination of cut-off rates and timing;
- Cash flow over the period up to this economic limit and approximately 2 years beyond;
- The costs and any revenues associated with cessation of production itself (capital and operating expenditures and any residual value of field assets);
- The form and costs of abandonment if these affect the timing of the economic limit;
- Possible options for extending field life;
- Production and injection profiles together with projections through to economic limit and approximately 2 years beyond;
- Details of any remaining licence obligations;
- Appropriate reservoir maps indicating the estimated location and distribution of remaining technically recoverable oil/gas that will be undrained at the time of cessation of production. In addition some conception of likely changes in such distributions over time should be given for completeness of the record;
- Confirmation that all abandonment requirements in the relevant planning consents will be met and details what is involved.

It is important that sufficient information is retained after the cessation of production to enable other interested potential Operators to take a reasonably informed view about the potential for field redevelopment. Redevelopment may become feasible if, for example, new technology allows a significantly improved recovery factor.

When should the CoP document be prepared?

As described above, discussions with OPRED and the OGA should be initiated up to three years before the permit is required.

The preparation of the CoP document may be undertaken in conjunction with preparations for the draft Decommissioning Programme.

NB: In most cases, one or more Petroleum Chemical Notices will be required for the decommissioning work. The application for these permits can also be undertaken in conjunction with the preparation of the CoP. A recommended 28 day notification period and a requirement to undertake an appropriate assessment may delay the overall approval of the Decommissioning process.

5.1.3 Dismantlement Safety Case

During the decommissioning of the fixed installation, the operational status of the installation will change and, with it, new hazards emerge. Even if the platform is completely shut down the decommissioning work itself can be extremely hazardous, e.g. through the chemicals used or during deconstruction tasks.

The Safety Case will therefore need to be updated.

Prerequisite	Up-to-date Safety Case for the installations to be decommissioned
Regulations	<i>The Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 2005</i> <i>The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive)(Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015</i> <i>The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive)(Safety Case etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator or the Licensee
To be referred to:	OSDR – Competent Authority

The regulatory requirements vary according to the decommissioning stage. The HSE will need to be satisfied that there is an effective safety and environmental management system in place during this phase.

5.1.3.1 For the early stages

The earlier stages can be defined as the steps leading to the decommissioning work, before production is ceased.

These stages could represent, for example, the cleaning and emptying of parts of the platform or vessels that are no longer in use or adding or removing part of the accommodation, depending on the number of people needed for the final decommissioning, etc

5.1.3.2 For the final decommissioning stage

The Operator must revise the safety case, addressing each phase of the decommissioning to reflect all changes and provide evidence that all risks and specific hazards have been identified and will be managed at each decommissioning stage.

This revised safety case should be submitted to the competent authority at least three months prior (or such shorter period that the competent authority may specify) before the commencement of dismantling.

The Operator of a fixed installation in external waters must ensure that it is not dismantled unless the competent authority has accepted those revisions to the current safety case. Additional information is highlighted below:.

1. A Decommissioning Programme is required to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and International Strategy for approval before submission of the safety case is made to the Competent Authority. The approval of the Decommissioning Programme will not affect the Competent Authority's assessment of the safety case revision or any decision pertaining to it.
2. The revisions should include all the particulars specified in *Regulation 20 and Schedule 8 of The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015* or of *Regulation 11 and Schedule 5 of The Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 2005*
3. The safety case revisions are only required to contain the particulars to the extent that it is reasonable to expect the Operator to address them at the time of submission of the revisions to the Competent Authority
4. Where there is a material change in any of the particulars notified pursuant to the regulations prior to the competent authority deciding whether to accept the proposed revisions to the current safety case, the Operator must notify the competent authority of that change as soon as practicable.
5. Further guidance can be obtained via the OSDR document "*Assessment Principles for Offshore Safety Cases (APOSC)*"

5.2 THE BASE CASE

The base case represents the total decommissioning of the fixed installation. The majority of fixed installations fall into this category, unless they are listed in Annex1 of *OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations*, which indicates the project may be a derogation case. If not, every part of the platform must be removed and taken onshore for re-use or disposal. The following section explains this base case situation.

In order to provide evidence that nothing will be left in place, the Operator will submit a Decommissioning Programme document that details the complete process of decommissioning the installation and pipelines.

Guidelines have been created to produce the Decommissioning Programme document and are summarised below.

5.2.1 Decommissioning planning

According to Section 29 of the Petroleum Act 1998, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy may require the Operator and other specific duty holders to submit a decommissioning programme containing an estimate of the cost of the measures proposed in it, describing the planned measures for the decommissioning work.

Approval of the decommissioning programme is contingent on the prior or agreed approval of CoP for the field, and should be referenced in the final version of the decommissioning programme.

Prerequisite	Notice under Section 29 reception (the time between these two steps can be considerable)
Regulations	<i>Petroleum Act 1998</i> as amended by the <i>Energy Act 2016</i> See also: Guidance Notes ' <i>Decommissioning of Offshore Oil and Gas Installations and Pipelines under the Petroleum Act 1998</i> '
Responsibility of:	The Operator and all the other Section 29 Notice Holders
To be referred to:	OPRED

Streamlined Decommissioning Programme Templates are available from OPRED to help Operators set out required content of a decommissioning programme. If this format is not appropriate in any particular case a modified version may be agreed in discussion with OPRED.

Typical content required for the decommissioning programme

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Decommissioning Programme/ Combined Decommissioning Programmes
- 1.2 Requirement for Decommissioning Programme(s)
- 1.3 Introduction
- 1.4 Overview of Installation(s)/Pipeline(s) Being Decommissioned
- 1.5 Summary of Proposed Decommissioning Programme(s)
- 1.6 Field Location Including Field Layout and Adjacent Facilities
- 1.7 Industrial Implications

- 2 Description of Items to be decommissioned**
 - 2.1 Installations: Surface Facilities
 - 2.2 Installations: Subsea including Stabilisation Features
 - 2.3 Pipelines including Stabilisation Features
 - 2.4 Wells
 - 2.5 Drill Cuttings
 - 2.6 Inventory Estimates

- 3 Removal and Disposal Methods**
 - 3.1 Topside
 - 3.2 Jacket(s)
 - 3.3 Subsea Installations and Stabilisation Features
 - 3.4 Pipelines
 - 3.5 Pipeline Stabilisation Features
 - 3.6 Wells
 - 3.7 Drill Cuttings
 - 3.8 Waste Streams
 - 3.9 Debris Clearance

- 4 Environmental Impact Assessment**
 - 4.1 Environmental Sensitivities (Summary)
 - 4.2 Potential Environmental Effects and their Management

- 5 Interested Party Consultations**

- 6 Programme Management**
 - 6.1 Project Management and Verification
 - 6.2 Post-Decommissioning Debris Clearance and Verification
 - 6.3 Schedule
 - 6.4 Costs
 - 6.5 Close Out
 - 6.6 Post-Decommissioning Monitoring and Evaluation
 - 6.7 Management of residual liability (for Derogation cases only)

- 7 Supporting Documents**
 - 7.1 Comparative Assessments (for Derogation Cases only)
 - 7.2 Any Combined Decommissioning Programmes

- 8 Partner Letter(s) of Support**

Decommissioning programme details:

1 Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should outline the background to the installation, the field and the decommissioning programme.

1.1 Decommissioning Programme/ Combined Decommissioning Programmes

Provide a clear statement confirming that there is a separate programme for each set of associated notices served under *Section 29 of the Petroleum Act 1998*.

1.2 Requirement for Decommissioning Programme(s)

Details the Installation(s) and Pipeline(s) to be decommissioned along with expected timescale.

1.3 Introduction

Outline the background of the decommissioning proposal with information on topsides, jacket and pipelines.

1.4 Overview of Installation(s)/Pipeline(s) Being Decommissioned

Provide more detail on the Installation(s) and Pipeline(s) being decommissioned including;

- Installation(s), Surface Installation(s), Subsea Installation(s), Number of Wells, Drill Cuttings pile(s), Distance to median and Distance to nearest UK coastline;
- Installation(s) Section 29 Notice Holders Details;
- Pipeline(s) being Decommissioned;
- Pipeline(s) Section 29 Notice Holders Details.

1.5 Summary of Proposed Decommissioning Programme(s)

Details the selected decommissioning option, the reason for the selection and the proposed decommissioning solution. This section is broken down in to the following sections:

- Topsides;
- Substructures (fixed large steel jacket, fixed small steel jacket, concrete gravity base, floating facility etc.);
- Subsea Installation(s);
- Pipeline(s), Flowlines & Umbilicals;
- Wells;
- Drill Cuttings;
- Interdependencies.

1.6 Field Location including Field Layout and Adjacent Facilities

Include figures that show the field location in the UKCS, the field layout and adjacent facilities along with any supporting information.

1.7 Industrial Implications

Provide a summary describing how the contract/procurement strategy is to be undertaken.

2 Description of Items to be decommissioned

2.1 Installations: Surface Facilities

Provide information on the Surface Facilities (Topsides/Jacket(s)/FPSO etc.) ; Name, Facility Type, Location, Topsides/Facilities Weight (Te) and number of modules, Jacket (if applicable) Weight (Te), Number of Legs, Number of Piles and Weight of Piles (Te).

2.2 Installations: Subsea including Stabilisation Features

Provide information on the Subsea including Stabilisation Features ; Subsea installations including stabilisation features, Number, Size/Weight (Te), Location and Comments/Status.

2.3 Pipelines including Stabilisation Features

Provide information on the Pipeline(s)/Flowline/Umbilical; Description, Pipeline No. (as per PWA), Diameter (inches), Length (km), Description of Component parts, Product Conveyed, From – To End Points, Burial Status, Pipeline Status and Current Content. Provide information on the Subsea Pipeline Stabilisation Features; Stabilisation Feature, Total number, Weight (Te), Location(s), Exposed/Buried/Condition.

2.4 Wells

Provide information on the Platform Wells and Subsea Wells; Designation, Status and Category of Well.

2.5 Drill Cuttings

Provide information on Drill Cuttings Pile(s) Information; Location of Pile Centre (Latitude/Longitude), Seabed Area (m²), Estimated volume of cuttings (m³).

2.6 Inventory Estimates

Provide a table or graph giving the inventory estimates for the decommissioning programme(s) contained in the document. Refer to tables or data in the supporting Environmental Statement.

3 Removal and Disposal Methods

In line with the waste hierarchy, the re-use of an installation (or parts thereof) is first in the order of preferred decommissioning options. The re-use of facilities wherever practical is encouraged and it is expected that the decommissioning programme(s) shall demonstrate that the potential for reuse has been examined fully. The programme(s) should therefore include a statement of how the principles of the waste hierarchy will be met, including the extent to which the installation(s) (or parts thereof) will be reused, recycled or scrapped.

3.1 Topside

Briefly describe the proposed topsides and decommissioning methodology including cleaning and removal methods. Insert a diagram to illustrate and repeat for each platform in the programme(s).

3.2 Jacket(s)/Substructures

Provide information on the Jacket(s)/Substructure(s) ; Name, Substructure Weight (Te), Date Installed, Seeking derogation from *OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations*, Outcome of Comparative Assessment and Removal methods.

3.3 Subsea Installations and Stabilisation Features

Provide information on the Subsea installation(s) and stabilisation feature(s), Number, Option, Disposal Route (if applicable). If mattresses are buried to a minimum depth of 0.6m below the seabed, a proposal in the form of a comparative assessment to leave the mattresses in situ (robust evidence of the mattress burial status should be submitted with the comparative assessment). It is expected that mattresses buried to less than 0.6m below the seabed are recovered to shore.

3.4 Pipelines

Provide information on the Pipeline of Pipeline Groups Decommissioning Options including the outcomes of Comparative Assessment; Pipeline or Group (as per PWA) Condition of line/group (Surface laid/Trenched/Buried/Spanning), Whole or Part of pipeline group, Decommissioning Options considered.

Remove – reverse reeling	Remove – reverse S lay
Trench and bury	Rock dump
Partial removal	Leave in place
Remedial trenching	Remedial removal
Remedial rock-dump	Other

3.5 Pipeline Stabilisation Features

Provide information on the Pipeline Stabilisation Feature(s); Stabilisation feature(s), Number, Option and disposal route.

3.6 Wells

Provide a short statement to indicate the approach to well plug and abandonment.

3.7 Drill Cuttings

Provide information on the Drill Cuttings Decommissioning Options; how many drill cutting piles are present, a review of the drill cutting piles characteristics and outcome of Comparative Assessment. *OSPAR Recommendation 2006/5 on a Management Regime for Offshore Cuttings Piles* has indicated that if the oil release rate from a cuttings pile is less than 10Te/yr and the area persistence is less than 500 km² years, then the best environmental option for the management of the pile is to leave it in place undisturbed to degrade naturally.

3.8 Waste Streams

Provide information to describe how the main waste streams arising from the proposed programme(s) would be managed and include a statement/graph/table giving your aspirations for the percentages of materials recovered to shore that will be reused, recycled or disposed of to landfill.

4 Environmental Assessment

4.1 Environmental Sensitivities (Summary)

Describe the important/sensitive features of the receiving environment(s) in the area(s) in which the decommissioning activities will take place; Conservation interests, Seabed, Fish, Fisheries, Marine Mammals, Birds, Onshore Communities, Other Users of the Sea, Atmosphere.

4.2 Potential Environmental Effects and their Management

Identifying the main environmental effects associated with decommissioning each of the facilities and summarising how these effects will be managed.

5 Interested Party Consultations

Provide a summary of key comments received from UK statutory consultees and provide copies of the public notice and correspondence from statutory consultees. Summarise key comments received from OSPAR Contracting Parties and include brief summaries of other consultations you have undertaken and reference any supporting documents.

6 Programme Management

6.1 Project Management and Verification

Provide a summary of the project management/verification which will be undertaken.

6.2 Post-Decommissioning Debris Clearance and Verification

Provide a summary of the debris clearance and verification which will be undertaken.

6.3 Schedule

Provide a Project Plan and include a Gantt chart version of the simplified project plan, with key dates and defined milestones.

6.4 Costs

An overall cost estimate should be provided, following UK Oil and Gas Guidelines on Decommissioning Cost Estimation.

6.5 Close Out

Provide a summary of the close out methodology.

6.6 Post-Decommissioning Monitoring and Evaluation

Provide a statement which details your proposed monitoring and evaluation programme.

6.7 Management of residual liability (for Derogation cases only)

Provide a statement which details the management of the on-going residual liability.

7 Supporting Documents

Provide a list of supporting documents (and supporting diagrams, graphics or other material) that has been referenced in the programme(s) which are not present in the Appendices.

8 Partner Letter(s) of Support

Copies of letter(s) of support from current equity holders in the field should be provided here. Originals should be submitted with final version of the Programme(s).

Within the BEIS website a *Streamlined Decommissioning Programme Template (Non-Derogation Cases)* is available.

5.2.2 Draft report submission

When should the draft of the Decommissioning Programme document be submitted?

- By mutual agreement, the Operator and OPRED will determine a submission date when and where the Operator is required to submit copies of the document.

What happens after the submission?

- The Offshore Decommissioning Unit will publish the draft of the Decommissioning Programme report to the relevant government departments and publish it on their website.
- The Offshore Decommissioning Unit and the Operator will discuss a timetable to consider the draft and submit it for approval to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
- During the consideration of the Decommissioning Programme draft, the Offshore Decommissioning Unit will co-ordinate all comments from concerned parties and will then submit a written response to the Operator.
- At the same time as submitting the draft decommissioning programme, the Operator should also release it to the statutory consultees and announce the proposals in the Press and on the Internet.
- The outcome of the consultation process should be reviewed with OPRED and details included in the final version of the programme submitted for the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy approval.
- Where appropriate, consideration of the draft decommissioning programme will run in parallel with any Cessation of Production (CoP) Document, consideration by the Competent Authority of the Dismantlement Safety Case, any environmental permits or consents, and any onshore disposal consents or licences which may be necessary, including any transfrontier shipment of waste issues.

The Oil & Gas Authority have published an online tool called the Decommissioning Roadmap Building Blocks – Generic Non Derogation. The aim is to provide a summary of the regulatory stakeholder requirement per stage of a decommissioning project lifecycle.

The Decommissioning Roadmap can be found online:

<https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/decommissioning/decommissioning-roadmap/>

5.2.3 Consultations

Section 29(3) of the Petroleum Act 1998 allows the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to request a consultation from Section 29 Notice Holders.

Who should be consulted?

All representatives of the parties that may be affected by the Decommissioning Programme should be consulted (e.g. the fishing industry). A complete list of concerned parties should be sent in a formal letter to all Section 29 Notice Holders.

Operators will need to develop and manage a wide-ranging public consultation process. The form and timing of this process should be discussed with OPRED. Oil & Gas UK has developed Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement for Decommissioning Activities

The Statutory consultees should have a period of 30 days to respond with their comments.

There are 4 Statutory stakeholders or consultees:

- The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations;
- The Scottish Fishermen's Federation;
- The Northern Ireland Fishermen's Federation;
- The Global Marine Systems Limited (if submarine cables are installed in the vicinity of the field to be decommissioned).

Fishermen's associations need to be informed of the decommissioning activities which could be detrimental to fishing, including safety. Residues including debris associated to decommissioning or remaining subsea installations will have to be monitored post-decommissioning in order to ensure that in the long term, wider legacy issues are being addressed.

There are other stakeholders or consultees; the main ones are:

- The Environmental Agency (England and Wales) and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (Scotland) for issues related to waste handling, waste shipment (into and out of the EU), cleaning, discharges and emissions.
- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for issues related to dumping at sea, deposit of waste and other materials at sea and export / import if the coral *Lophelia Pertusa* is present on an installation. Though DEFRA is normally active in England only, there are devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) for issues related to the conservation of nature, namely biological diversity, geological features and natural systems on UK and international and in the UK offshore region from 12 to 200 nautical miles. JNCC acts on behalf of Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside and Natural Resources Wales.
- Natural England is a consultee similar to JNCC but for the territorial sea adjacent to England up to 12 nautical miles.
- The Scottish Executive Marine Directorate has a similar role to DEFRA for decommissioning issues in Scotland.
- The Scottish Executive Radioactive Waste Team for all issues related to NORM and decontamination.
- The UK Hydrographic Office for all issues related to the safety of other sea users during removal operations, the marking of remains and updates of navigation charts.
- Fishsafe EU information portal for all issues related to remaining installations and removed subsea and surface safety zones.
- Seafish UK information system (through Kingfisher Information Services producing bulletins, flyers and news).
- The Crown Estate for all issues related to the completion of the decommissioning work hence in order to put an end to the rental payment for oil and gas pipelines crossing the seabed within the 12 nautical miles of the UK coastline.
- Historic Scotland for all issues related to archiving into a central repository, important records of offshore field operations so that they can be re-used by future generations.
- UK universities for all issues related to decommissioning training content and the development of innovative decommissioning solutions fostered by academic research.
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) for all issues related to the protection of wildlife.
- Greenpeace and other Non-Governmental Organizations

5.2.4 Decommissioning Programme approval procedure

The different stages of the approval procedure are as follows:

- After the consultations, draft corrections and when the Decommissioning Programme has been finalised, Section 29 Notice Holders will receive a formal letter from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, requesting the Decommissioning Programme for approval;
- In response to the request, the Operator, on behalf of all the other Section 29 Notice Holders, will send copies of the Decommissioning Programme to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The latter should comprise a letter from each co-venturer, indicating that the submission by the Operator is sent on their behalf;
- The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will inform all Notice Holders, in writing, when the programme is approved;
- All Section 29 Notice Holders will be given the opportunity to make representations if there are specific conditions required by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy that are indicated in the approval notice;
- The approved programme will be published online at the BEIS website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oil-and-gas-decommissioning-of-offshore-installations-and-pipelines>

5.2.4.1 Withdrawal of Approval

If requested by one of the Notice Holders, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy can withdraw the approval of a decommissioning programme. In this case, the other Notice Holders have a right to make a written representation for, or against, the withdrawal. The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will make a decision as to whether or not the approval of the decommissioning programme has been withdrawn.

5.2.5 During and after decommissioning operations

Once the programme has been approved, the major first step will have been accomplished. However, the following step, i.e. the decommissioning itself, is equally complex. During this stage of the project and following the dismantlement, the Operator and duty holders will be required to comply with a series of requirements or conditions to ensure this stage of the work is carried out in accordance with government regulations and recommendations. Particular attention is paid to safety and environmental factors.

5.2.5.1 Contact with the Radio Navigation Warning

A safety requirement is to prevent possible accidents with other sea users (e.g. fishermen, merchandise transport, etc.) in the decommissioning zone.

"The hydrographic office radio navigation warning section should be contacted 24 hours in advance of offshore activity concerning the removal and tow of platforms, FPSO's and other surface structures. The RNW Duty Officer can advise on details required and can be contacted on Tel: 01823 353448 (email: nawarnings@btconnect.com)".

5.2.5.2 Changes to approved programmes

Once the programme has been approved, changes may still be proposed.

The request can be made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy or by the parties who submitted the programme. The request could relate to the content of the programme or an amendment concerning the person tasked with the duty of ensuring that the programme is carried out.

Prerequisite	Final Decommissioning Programme Agreement
Regulations	<i>Sections 34 of the Petroleum Act 1998 as amended by the Energy Act 2016</i>
Responsibility of:	OPRED and any Section 29 Notice Holders
To be referred to:	Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy or any Section 29 Notice Holders depending on from whom the query is made

5.2.5.3 Close-out Report

Within twelve (12) months of the decommissioning programme completion, the Operator must send a Close-out Report to OPRED to provide evidence that the approved programme has been implemented appropriately.

Prerequisite	Decommissioning of Fixed Installations
Regulations	<i>Petroleum Act 1998 as amended by the Energy Act 2016</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	OPRED

Any major variations from the approved programme should be detailed in this report together with the reasons for these changes. The report should also outline the following:

- How the Decommissioning Programme was carried out, with confirmation that it has been conducted in accordance with the approved programme;
- How the major milestones were achieved;
- Any monitoring undertaken during the work;
- Information on the outcome of the Decommissioning Programme as a whole;
- If there were any changes, the reasons and information concerning any resulting permit;
- The actual costs of the decommissioning work and an explanation of any difference against forecast cost;
- The result of the Debris Clearance;
- The result of the post-decommissioning environmental sampling survey.

NB: Following submission of the Close-out Report to OPRED, the Operator will be asked to publish a copy on their website. A copy will also be published on the OPRED website.

5.2.5.4 Debris Clearance

Following the completion of each decommissioning programme, surveys should be undertaken to verify the state of the seabed. Any debris should be identified and recovered if it is deemed to have arisen from the decommissioning operation or from past development and production activity.

Prerequisite	Decommissioning of Fixed Installations
Regulations	<i>Petroleum Act 1998 and OSPAR recommendation 2006/5 on a Management Regime for Offshore Cuttings Piles</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	OPRED

As a minimum the area covered for debris clearance should include a 500m radius around any installation and a 100m (50m either side of the pipeline) corridor along the length of any pipelines. Identification of debris would normally be conducted by side scan sonar with an ROV deployed to investigate and recover any potential hazards located. Following this work, verification of seabed clearance by an independent organisation will normally be required. This requirement will depend on the circumstances of the case and will be decided in discussion with OPRED.

The results of the Debris Clearance must be included in the Close-Out Report and any independent verification (i.e. seabed clearance verification) should be attached. The independent verification will normally be required by OPRED, based on a decision discussed with the Operator.

NB: A copy of the seabed clearance certificate should also be submitted to the Seabed Data Centre (Offshore Installations) at the following address:

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
 Seabed Data Centre (Offshore Installations)
 Admiralty Way
 Taunton
 Somerset
 TA1 2DN

5.2.5.5 Post-decommissioning environmental sampling survey

Prerequisite	Decommissioning of Fixed Installations
Regulations	<i>Petroleum Act 1998</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	OPRED (Findings in the Close-out report)

As defined in the Decommissioning Programme a post-decommissioning environmental sampling survey should be carried out. This survey aims to monitor the level of hydrocarbons, heavy metals and other contaminants in sediment and biota immediately following the decommissioning operations.

The results should include any immediate consequences of the decommissioning activity, which may have been observed.

The results should be placed in the Close-out Report. The outcome and the future survey regimes will be discussed and agreed by both the Section 29 Notice Holders and OPRED.

5.2.5.6 Monitoring of the decommissioned site

Prerequisite	Decommissioning of Fixed Installations
Regulations	<i>Petroleum Act 1998</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	OPRED

Following the decommissioning, and as required within the Decommissioning Programme, site monitoring should be implemented.

The Operator is required to undertake a post-decommissioning seabed sampling survey to monitor levels of hydrocarbons, heavy metals and other contaminants in the seabed and biota.

A second survey might be necessary after an agreed timescale. Should remedial measures be necessary, this will be established in cooperation with OPRED.

5.2.5.7 Marking of remains

Prerequisite	Decommissioning of Fixed Installations
Regulations	<i>OSPAR Decision 98/3 ANNEX 4 and IMO Resolution A. 672(16)</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	OPRED

In the event of any change in the status of decommissioned installations, it is the Operator's responsibility to ensure that at least six weeks' advance notification is given to:

The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
Seabed Data Centre (Offshore Installations)
Admiralty Way
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2DN

The charts will be amended accordingly. The Operator must ensure that at least the position (horizontal datum to be stated), surveyed depth and dimensions of the remains are identified.

Drill cuttings accumulations will only be marked on Admiralty charts under certain conditions.

The Operator must also keep the hydrographic office informed of the installation and maintenance of any navigational aids in respect of the remains of concrete installations that project above the surface of the sea.

5.2.5.8 Application for removal of a Safety Zone

Prerequisite	Decommissioning of Fixed Installations
Regulations	<i>Petroleum Act 1987</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	OSDR – Competent Authority

A 500m-radius Safety Zone exists around all offshore oil and gas installations that project above the sea at any tide state.

According to the Petroleum Act 1987 regarding the decommissioning of installations, the Safety Zones will automatically cease when the installation no longer projects above the surface of the sea. Safety zones which have been established by statutory instrument (prior to the 1987 Act) will require consent from the Competent Authority to be removed.

NB: The Safety Zone will remain in place during the decommissioning operation and, if it becomes necessary to undertake any work on facilities that remain in place, the Safety Zone can be re-established to cover those works.

5.2.5.9 Geotechnical Data

Companies should know that geotechnical data collected under the petroleum licence should:

- Either be kept in accordance with the licence model clauses;
- Or placed in the National Hydrocarbons Data Archive (NHDA, www.bgs.ac.uk/nhda). This option should be considered at Cessation of Production.

5.3 THE DEROGATION CASE

The leaving, wholly or partly in place, of disused offshore installations is prohibited, but under certain conditions such as lack of safety, other decommissioning solutions can be considered. Annex 1 of the *OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations* describes the categories of disused offshore installations for which derogations may be considered.

To apply for derogation under Article 2 of *OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations*, the Decommissioning Programme must complete a comparative assessment of the different solutions. Following the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy agreement on the Decommissioning Programme, if the decommissioning is not planned to be total, the OSPAR Commission will be consulted and given the opportunity for comment and OPRED will make the decision on the derogation approval.

Prerequisite	Statutory and public consultations
Regulations	<i>OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations</i>
Responsibility of:	OPRED, but the Operator will be asked to prepare the document
To be referred to:	OSPAR Secretariat: Executive Secretary

5.3.1 Conditions for applying for a derogation

There are four categories of disused offshore installation for which derogation under paragraph three may be considered. The Decision describes them as follows:

- a. steel installations weighing more than ten thousand tonnes in air;
- b. gravity based concrete installations;
- c. floating concrete installations;
- d. any concrete anchor-base which results, or is likely to result, in interference with other legitimate uses of the sea.

NB: The topsides are not considered part of the installation.

All procedures begin as a base case and only some changes will need to be made concerning the Decommissioning Programme.

5.3.2 Decommissioning planning

5.3.2.1 Comparative assessment

The discussion with the OGA concerning a possible derogation must begin at the earliest opportunity. While preparing the draft of the decommissioning report, the Operator and other Section 29 Notice Holders must also prepare a comparative assessment of the alternative solution.

Who is responsible for this assessment?

As OPRED is the Contracting Party responsible for the UK, it must submit the assessment to the Executive Secretary for the derogation. Nevertheless, OPRED will ask the Operator of the installation to support this assessment.

Which options could be considered in the assessment?

Apart from the proposed disposal at sea proposition, the assessment shall include the following options:

- Re-use of all or part of the installation;
- Recycling of all or part of the installation;
- Final disposal on land of all or part of the installation;
- Other options for disposal at sea.

What is contained in the assessment?

The content of the assessment is described in Annex 2 of the OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations. It states:

"The assessment shall consider the potential impacts of the proposed disposal of the installation on the environment and on other legitimate uses of the sea. The assessment shall also consider the practical availability of reuse, recycling and disposal options for the decommissioning of the installation."

More specifically, the assessment report should contain this information:

- a. the characteristics of the installation, including the substances contained within it; if the proposed disposal method includes the removal of hazardous substances from the installation, the removal process to be employed, and the results to be achieved, should also be described; the description should indicate the form in which the substances will be present and the extent to which they may escape from the installation during, or after, the disposal;
- b. the proposed disposal site: for example, the physical and chemical nature of the sea bed and water column and the biological composition of their associated ecosystems; this information should be included even if the proposal is to leave the installation wholly or partly in place;
- c. the proposed method and timing of the disposal.

In addition, the assessment of the disposal options shall take into account, but need not be restricted to:

- a. technical and engineering aspects of the option, including re-use and recycling and the impacts associated with cleaning, or removing chemicals from, the installation while it is offshore;
- b. the timing of the decommissioning;
- c. safety considerations associated with removal and disposal, taking into account methods for assessing health and safety at work;
- d. impacts on the marine environment, including exposure of biota to contaminants associated with the installation, other biological impacts arising from physical effects, conflicts with the conservation of species, with the protection of their habitats, or with mariculture, and interference with other legitimate uses of the sea;
- e. impacts on other environmental compartments, including emissions to the atmosphere, leaching to groundwater, discharges to surface fresh water and effects on the soil;
- f. consumption of natural resources and energy associated with re-use or recycling;
- g. other consequences to the physical environment which may be expected to result from the options;
- h. impacts on amenities, the activities of communities and on future uses of the environment; and
- i. economic aspects.

Which part of the installation can the permit be for?

If the comparative assessment (described below) shows there are reasons why it would be impractical to remove all the installation, paragraph 3 of the OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations states that a permit may be issued for:

- a. *all or part of the footings of a steel installation in a category listed in Annex 1, placed in the maritime area before 9 February 1999, to be left in place;*
- b. *a concrete installation in a category listed in Annex 1 or constituting a concrete anchor base, to be dumped or left wholly or partly in place;*
- c. *any other disused offshore installation to be dumped or left wholly or partly in place, when exceptional and unforeseen circumstances resulting from structural damage or deterioration, or from some other cause presenting equivalent difficulties, can be demonstrated.*

Undertaken in conjunction with the comparative assessment, Section 29 Notice Holders will also have to prepare the draft of the decommissioning report.

5.3.2.2 Adaptation for the Decommissioning Programme and relative procedures

Decommissioning Programme Content

The content of the Decommissioning Programme is the same as for the base case. It is based on the preferred decommissioning option following the comparative assessment and using the findings of the other solution's assessment.

Streamlined Decommissioning Programme Templates are available to help Operators set out required content of a decommissioning programme.

Only the Programme Management section of the Decommissioning Programme will need more specification, and the Operator must determine a strategy for the Management of Residual Liability to monitor the condition of the remains at appropriate intervals in this phase of the programme. This should be discussed with OPRED who will take advice from other appropriate Government Departments.

The environmental effects of the alternative disposal options will be addressed in the Decommissioning Programme through the environmental assessment, and as part of the Comparative Assessment.

Draft report submission

The submission procedure is the same as the base case. However, some details have to be specified:

- As the derogation case is more complex than the base case, it is likely that more time will be necessary for full consideration of the draft;
- Due to this complexity, more than one draft of the Decommissioning Programme may be required before submission is made to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;
- The outcome of the statutory and public consultations should be discussed with OPRED and the details should be added in a post consultation draft;
- When OPRED has the post consultation draft, it should be sufficient to initiate consultations with other OSPAR Contracting Parties with the intention of delivering a derogation from the *OSPAR Decision 98/3* permit;
- In the final decommissioning report that is submitted for approval, the findings of the OSPAR process for the derogation should be reflected.

Consultations

The requirements are the same as for the base case however the consultation will be wide-ranging and public. The Operator should discuss the form and timing with OPRED.

Consultations should be commenced at an early stage as they can take up to twelve (12) months to complete.

To support the Operator in this process, Oil and Gas UK has produced '*Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement during Decommissioning Activities*'. This document is available on the organisation's website www.oilandgasuk.co.uk

At the end of the consultations, stakeholders will have made a decision regarding the derogation request and the post-consultation draft of the Decommissioning Programme document should reflect this decision and the extent to which the views of the stakeholders were taken into account.

If the stakeholders agree the derogation proposition, then OPRED is able to begin the process of consultation with other OSPAR Contracting Parties, using the post-consultation draft of the Decommissioning Programme and the comparative assessment as bases.

Discussion with the OSPAR Commission

Once the post-consultation draft of the decommissioning report and the comparative assessment have been finalised, OPRED will begin consultations. A period of at least 32 weeks should be allowed before any expected date of a decision, as every OSPAR Contracting Party will be given time to comment and/or make representations during the procedure. Annex 3 of *OSPAR Decision 98/3* describes this procedure in detail.

5.3.2.3 Independent verification

Once the permit is received, the decommissioning operations are almost ready to begin. Annex 4 of *OSPAR Decision 98/3* states:

“every permit shall [...] require independent verification that the condition of the installation before the disposal operation starts is consistent both with the terms of the permit and with the information upon which the assessment of the proposed disposal was based”.

Therefore, before the physical decommissioning work can begin, an independent verification is required that will include details of the nature of any hazardous substances.

The approach for this verification will be considered on a case by case basis by OPRED, so the Operator should propose a suitable organisation to undertake it.

5.3.3 During and after decommissioning operations

5.3.3.1 Contact with the Radio Navigation Warning

Radio Navigational Warnings (RNW) are provided in the UKCS by The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO).

These are transmitted to vessels for the purpose to provide “urgent information” important to the safe navigation, according to Part 1, Chapter V, Regulation 4 of *1974 SOLAS Convention (Safety of Life at Sea)*, which states:

“Each Contracting Government shall take all steps necessary to ensure that, when intelligence of any dangers is received from whatever reliable source, it shall be promptly brought to the knowledge of those concerned and communicated to other interested Governments”.

Therefore, for decommissioning activities, the UK Hydrographic Office should be notified as appropriate with progress, the status of the works, and expected completion of the works.

5.3.3.2 Close-out Report

As with the base case, the Operator must submit a Close-out Report following the decommissioning operation. Despite the derogation, the content will remain almost the same for Close-out Report requirements and procedures.

5.3.3.3 Risks arising from remaining infrastructure

This section of the Close-out Report will explain which measures and monitoring the Operator has taken to manage the potential risks arising from any legacies; this includes the participation in the Fisheries Legacy Trust Company (FLTTC).

FLTC was established in 2007 and it manages interactions between the offshore oil and gas industry and the fishing industries in order to help them work safely and efficiently together. This may involve some post-decommissioning legacies and activities, the confirmation of marking any remains on mariners' charts, inclusion in the 'Fishsafe' system and the installation of navigational aids.

If parts of the installation have been left in place, the Operator will have to monitor the remains at appropriate intervals. A suitable monitoring programme will have to be established in cooperation with OPRED.

NB: More information can be found on the FLTC website: www.ukfltc.com.

5.3.3.4 Report from OPRED to OSPAR

Once the decommissioning is complete, paragraph 10 of *OSPAR Decision 98/3* on the *Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations* requires that:

"If any disused offshore installation is dumped or left wholly or partly in place within the maritime area, the relevant Contracting Party shall submit to the Commission, within six months of the disposal, a report in accordance with paragraph 4 of Annex 4."

Prerequisite	Decommissioning of Fixed Installations
Regulations	<i>OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations</i>
Responsibility of:	OPRED (Document based on the Operator's close-out report)
To be referred to:	OSPAR Secretariat: Executive Secretary

This document seeks to explain how the disposal has been undertaken and describes any immediate consequences observed of the disposal at sea. It will also explain how the management measures, the monitoring or publication required by the permit will be carried out

Once again, OPRED is responsible for the submission of this report to OSPAR, but it will be based on the Operator's Close-out Report; the Operator will have the opportunity to review the report before its submission.

This report should be submitted within six months of the disposal as per OSPAR Decision 98/3.

5.3.3.5 Monitoring of the decommissioned site

As explained in the Decommissioning Programme specific monitoring will need to be carried out in respect of the remains, as allowed by the permit issued by the OSPAR Commission.

The monitoring regime is agreed between OPRED and the Operator and updated over time.

Each inspection report should be submitted to OPRED, including proposals for any maintenance or remedial work if required. In the meantime, each report should also be published, e.g. on the Internet. After decommissioning, the Operator has to get independent verification that no debris has been left on the seabed. A seabed sampling survey should be undertaken to monitor levels of hydrocarbons, heavy metals and other contaminants. Monitoring will only be required if a structure or part of a structure has been left in place (in accordance with OSPAR).

5.3.3.6 Marking of remains

The Operator has the same responsibility as in the base case.

In addition, the installation and maintenance of any navigational aids for the remains of concrete installations that project above the surface of the sea is the Operator's responsibility, as is the maintenance of such navigational aids. Their nature is discussed with OPRED, the relevant lighthouse authorities and interested parties (e.g. fishermen, other mariners etc.).

Also, when the footings of a steel installation, a concrete installation or a pipeline are to remain in place, the Operator must ensure the following information is forwarded to the Hydrographic Office for inclusion on Admiralty charts:

- The position (horizontal datum to be stated) of the remains;
- The surveyed depth of the remains;
- The dimensions of the remains.

NB: Radio Navigation Warnings contact information for further details:

Tel: 01823 353448

Email: nawarnings@btconnect.com.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-hydrographic-office>

5.3.3.7 Safety Zones

The procedures are the same as the base case.

5.3.3.8 Geotechnical data

The procedures are the same as the base case.

5.4 FLOATING UNITS

As for any fixed installations, the Streamlined Decommissioning Programme(s) Template (Non-Derogation or Derogation Cases) have to be completed for Floating Units.

Floating units like Floating Production Facilities (FPFs) or Floating Production Systems (FPSs), Floating Production, Storage and Off-take vessels (FPSOs), Floating Storage Units (FSUs), and Single Buoy Mooring facilities (SBMs) have to comply with the following regulations;;

- *International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments 2004* which will enter into force on the 8th September of 2017. The convention aims at preventing, minimizing and ultimately eliminating the transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens through the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments. Each Contracting Party to the convention must ensure that adequate sediment reception facilities are available. Each ship must have and implement a Ballast Water Management plan and a Ballast Water record book.

Note that for floating units, surveys (initial, renewal every 5 years maximum) and issuance of a certificate are not mandatory nevertheless the government of the coastal state, the "Administration" must establish appropriate measures so that the provisions of the convention are complied.

- IMO circular *BWM.2/Circ.34/Rev.4 'List of ballast water management systems that make use of active substances which received Basic and Final Approval'* contains the list of approved systems according to Resolution MEPC.169(57) 'Procedure for approval of ballast water management systems that make use of active substance (G9).'
- Resolution MEPC.117(52) 'Amendments to the Annex of the protocol of 1978 relating to the international convention for the prevention of pollution from ships, 1973', states within Regulation 39, with regard to 'fixed or floating platforms':

"they shall keep a record of all operations involving oil or oily mixture discharges, in a form approved by the Administration; and

subject to the provisions of regulation 4 of this Annex, the discharge into the sea of oil or oily mixture shall be prohibited except when the oil content of the discharge without dilution does not exceed 15 parts per million."

- *Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013 'on ship recycling and amending Regulation(EC) No 1013/2006 and Directive 2009/16/EC'.*

This regulation encompasses the Hong Kong Convention on the Safe and Environmentally sound Recycling of Ships 2009 even if not entered into force. Ships already in service will be required to have an IHM Part I (list of hazardous materials on board along with their locations and quantities) on-board from December 31 2020 but ships due to be recycled must have it prior to their recycling date. The regulation applies to ships flagged with EU Member States or to non-EU flagged ships calling at EU ports. The regulation also imposes requirements on recycling facilities in the EU or outside the EU when recycling ships from EU member states. Ships will need to have an Inventory Certificate delivered by the administration or recognised organizations. Ships going to be recycled will have to have a Ready for Recycling Certificate with full IHM Part I (list of hazardous materials), Part II (list of operationally generated waste present on board) and Part III (list of stores present on board the ship). The regulation will be applicable on the 31st December 2020. From that date, non-EU ships calling at EU ports or ships operating in EU waters will need to have a Statement of Compliance on-board.

5.5 SUMMARY

This chapter has covered, in detail, the regulatory processes that concern fixed installations decommissioning and Floating Units. It has set out the requirements and obligations relevant to both base case and derogation case projects and the grounds for requesting deferred or phased decommissioning activity.

Key to every project is the production of the Decommissioning Programme and guidance has been given on the content required, the submission, consultation and approval procedures involved.



A Guide to Regulatory Process for Pipeline Decommissioning



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6 *A Guide to Regulatory Process for Pipeline Decommissioning*

This chapter is dedicated to exploring the regulatory process for pipeline decommissioning. It takes into account the pipelines, flow lines, umbilical's and subsea facilities, including Pipeline End Manifold (PLEM), Umbilical Termination Assembly (UTA), riser anchor bases, etc.

As with fixed installations decommissioning, the grounds and procedure for requesting a deferred or phased decommissioning are covered in detail, with references and contact details for further information.

Regulations for pipeline decommissioning differ slightly to those relating to fixed installations decommissioning and the following subsection explains the appropriate laws with which the Operator must be compliant.

6.1 LEGISLATIVE SPECIFICATION

Pipeline owners must respect *The Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996* as amended by *The Pipeline Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2003* administered by HSE's Hazardous Installations Directorate (Specialised Industries Division).

These regulations detail the requirements that ensure pipelines are operated safely, from their design until their decommissioning.

From the dismantlement perspective, the requirements of these regulations can be summarised as follows:

- The Operator shall ensure that pipelines are decommissioned safely, whether the agreed solution is dismantlement and removal or for the pipeline to be left in place (Regulation 14);
- At least three months before the decommissioning work start is planned, the Operator should notify the Executive (Regulation 22(2) and (3) and Schedule 5).

The *Petroleum Act 1998* represents a framework for the orderly decommissioning of both fixed installations and pipelines. It should therefore be noted that Section 29 Notices are addressed to pipeline owners and require them to set out the planned measures for the decommissioning work. This means that, even if there is no explicit requirement within the Pipelines Safety Regulations, the Operator will need to prepare a Decommissioning Programme and obtain approval from the Competent Authority.

Section 29 Notices could be issued to parties other than the Operator (e.g. parent companies, associates, etc.), where the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy does not have sufficiently strong evidence that the Operator alone would be able to ensure a satisfactory decommissioning (e.g. in the case of technical and financial issues). The different notice holders must then work jointly to submit the Decommissioning Programme.

The provisions of *OSPAR Decision 98/3* on the *Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations* do not apply to pipelines. The UK has adopted the principles and processes associated with *OSPAR Decision 98/3* in its consideration of pipeline decommissioning. This means that Operators must aim to achieve a clear sea bed and robustly assess decommissioning options based on evidence and data.

Finally, there is no preferred method concerning pipeline decommissioning. Each project will then be deliberated on a case-by-case basis and each decommissioning solution will be studied in a comparative assessment of every possibility included within the Decommissioning Programme.

6.2 REQUESTING A DEFERRED OR PHASED DECOMMISSIONING

Prerequisite	Notice under section 29 reception (the time between these two steps can be considerable)
	<i>Petroleum Act 1998</i> as amended by the <i>Energy Act 2016</i> <i>Pipelines Works Authorisations</i> <i>Coast Protection Act 1949</i> <i>Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</i> <i>Marine (Scotland) Act 2010</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator and all the other Section 29 Notice Holders
To be referred to:	Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, OPRED and OGA for Legal Consent

As with installations, deferred pipeline decommissioning can be requested. The procedure to obtain a deferral is as follows:

- 1 When a pipeline reaches the end of its operational life before the other facilities of the field, the Operator should inform OPRED that the pipeline is no longer in use and should be part of the Interim Pipeline Regime;
- 2 The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will then send a '*Disused Pipeline Notification*' to the Operator;

NB: A template of Disused Pipeline Notification (DPN) can be found on BEIS website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oil-and-gas-decommissioning-of-offshore-installations-and-pipelines>

- 3 The Operator must complete the DPN, providing the following details:
“the length, diameter and construction of the pipeline; its location and the extent to which the pipeline is trenched or buried; and the stability and integrity of the pipeline including the presence of any spans in excess of 0.8 metres in height and 10 metres in length and/or which are likely to present a hazard to fishing activity”;
- 4 The Operator then returns the form to OPRED once Legal Consent from OGA has been obtained by e-mail to the Offshore Decommissioning Unit;
- 5 Once OPRED receives the form and following discussion with other relevant Government Departments they will determine the best solution between the two following options:
 - a. Immediate decommissioning
 - b. Deferred decommissioning, if there is no safety issue pending.Separate programmes should be prepared for pipelines and installations although these can be contained within the same decommissioning document. This is necessary because the Petroleum Act 1998 has the effect of requiring a decommissioning programme in respect of each set of equipment which is the subject of a Section 29 Notice or series of related Section 29 Notices. It should be possible to identify the different programmes in order to isolate the liabilities of the different groups of notice holders.
- 6 If it is agreed between the various stakeholders to defer the decommissioning work, OPRED will send a letter to the Operator, specifying the conditions upon which it is prepared to defer formal decommissioning. These conditions will be set out to satisfy OPRED that the deferral will not prejudice any final decommissioning and the pipeline will be subject to an appropriate surveying and maintenance regime. The deferment is carried out under the Interim Pipeline Regime (IPR). The pipeline owner will receive a Disused Pipeline Notification (DPN) form requesting details on the status of the pipeline. After consultations with other government departments, OPRED will issue a letter outlining the conditions under which it is prepared to defer decommissioning to a specified date. It is expected that the owner will maintain the pipeline, should its re-use be considered a viable option.
- 7 Following the surveys, OPRED will send confirmation regarding the status of the pipeline to the Operator. If the removal of the pipeline wholly or partly result in a change to any part of the information contained in Table A in the original Pipelines Works Authorization (PWA) then a PWA Variation must be established. Varying an existing pipeline requires a PWA Variation (Category 2 – Short) form to be completed.

It is also required to verify that the requirements of the *Coast Protection Act 1949* as amended Section 34 "Restriction of works detrimental to navigation" have been met.

Some requirements of the *Coast Protection Act 1949* Section 34 have also been amended by the *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009* in England and Wales and the *Marine (Scotland) Act 2010* in Scotland.

During the decommissioning, the deposit of any object or material on the seabed requires a licence under the *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009* in England and Wales and the *Marine (Scotland) Act 2010* in Scotland.

NB: Further details on deferral are available on BEIS Oil & Gas Website - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oil-and-gas-decommissioning-of-offshore-installations-and-pipelines>

6.3 DECOMMISSIONING PLANNING

6.3.1 The Pipeline Decommissioning Programme

In accordance with the Petroleum Act 1998, the pipeline Operator must define the planned measures for pipeline decommissioning. Activities must be described in a formal Decommissioning Programme, with evidence that every potential risk has been identified.

Prerequisite	Notice under Section 29 reception (the time between these two steps can be considerable)
Regulations	<i>Petroleum Act 1998</i> as amended by the <i>Energy Act 2016</i> <i>Pipelines Works Authorisations</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator and all the other Section 29 Notice Holders
To be referred to:	OPRED

A comparative assessment is a mandatory requirement for any decommissioning proposal that will see pipelines left in-situ.

As specified in the introduction of this document, decommissioning proposals for pipelines should be contained in a separate programme, even if the programmes are to be submitted within a single document. This way, the specific obligations that apply to the pipelines are clearly identified and, since the pipeline owner could differ from the installation owner, any confusion may be avoided.

The content of a pipeline Decommissioning Programme is the same as the content developed for the fixed installations document.

Content required for the decommissioning programme

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Decommissioning Programme/ Combined Decommissioning Programmes
- 1.2 Requirement for Decommissioning Programme(s)
- 1.3 Introduction
- 1.4 Overview of Installation(s)/Pipeline(s) Being Decommissioned
- 1.5 Summary of Proposed Decommissioning Programme(s)
- 1.6 Field Location Including Field Layout and Adjacent Facilities
- 1.7 Industrial Implications

2 Description of Items to be decommissioned

- 2.1 Installations: Surface Facilities
- 2.2 Installations: Subsea including Stabilisation Features
- 2.3 Pipelines including Stabilisation Features (e.g. Mattresses, Grout Bags, etc)
- 2.4 Wells
- 2.5 Drill Cuttings
- 2.6 Inventory Estimates

3 Removal and Disposal Methods

- 3.1 Topside
- 3.2 Jacket(s)
- 3.3 Subsea Installations and Stabilisation Features
- 3.4 Pipelines
- 3.5 Pipeline Stabilisation Features
- 3.6 Wells
- 3.7 Drill Cuttings
- 3.8 Waste Streams

4 Environmental Assessment

- 4.1 Environmental Sensitivities (Summary)
- 4.2 Potential Environmental Effects and their Management

5 Interested Party Consultations

6 Programme Management

- 6.1 Project Management and Verification
- 6.2 Post-Decommissioning Debris Clearance and Verification
- 6.3 Schedule
- 6.4 Costs
- 6.5 Close Out
- 6.6 Post-Decommissioning Monitoring and Evaluation
- 6.7 Management of residual liability (for Derogation cases only)

7 Supporting Documents

8. Partner Letter(s) of Support

Streamlined Decommissioning Programme Templates are available to help Operators set out required content of a pipeline decommissioning programme

6.3.1.1 Description of the items to be decommissioned

The Operator or Section 29 Notice Holder should complete the Streamlined Decommissioning Programme(s) Template for either (Non-Derogation Cases) or (Derogation Cases). Within the pipelines section of the Decommissioning Programme the following details about the pipelines to be decommissioned are required:

- Details of pipelines, flowlines, and umbilicals;
- Lines laid as FEPA Exempt (Food and Environment Protection Act 1985) which do not have a PWA Pipeline Number;
- Description of line;
- Pipeline number, diameter and length;
- Description of component parts;
- Product conveyed;
- From – To End Points;
- Burial Status;
- Pipeline Status;
- Current content.

6.3.1.2 Removal and disposal methods

It is important to remember that pipeline installations vary widely (in terms of model, location, environment, maintenance quality, etc.). For this reason, no specific prediction can be made regarding the approval of options for specific classes of pipeline. Each alternative solution is considered on its own merits and a comparative assessment made.

Decommissioning Pipeline Options:

- Remove – reverse reeling;
- Remove reverse S lay;
- Trench and bury;
- Remedial removal;
- Remedial trenching;
- Partial removal;
- Leave in place;
- Other;
- Remedial rock-dump.

For each pipeline or pipeline group, the outcome of the Comparative Assessments needs to be highlighted and used as justification for each recommendation.

6.3.1.3 Programme Management

All pipeline routes and installation sites will be the subject of surveys when decommissioning activity has concluded. After the surveys have been sent to OPRED and reviewed, a post monitoring survey regime will be agreed by both parties.

6.3.1.4 Iron (but not steel) pipelines

The Pipeline Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2003 states that the decommissioning of iron (not steel) pipe used in pipelines shall be the subject of a particular programme. This programme will have to be approved by the Competent Authority.

6.4 DURING AND AFTER DECOMMISSIONING OPERATIONS

The requirements are identical to the decommissioning of installations.

6.5 IF THE PIPELINE IS WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL SEA

If pipelines cross the territorial sea (12 nautical miles from the UK coastline), they are likely to be subject to a lease granted by The Crown Estate. If this is the case, the Operator may apply to The Crown Estate for termination of the rent upon completion of decommissioning works or suspension of the rent if the pipeline has fallen into temporary disuse.

Operators should engage with the Crown Estate and the OGA to clarify any requirements that they may have in relation to decommissioning of pipelines and cables within 12 nautical miles of the UK coastline.

6.6 SUMMARY

This chapter has dealt with the regulatory processes that govern pipeline decommissioning as a distinct project from fixed installations decommissioning. It has described the legislative specifications and the deferred or phased decommissioning application process.



Other Mandatory Regulations



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7 Other Mandatory Regulations

In addition to the main regulations pertaining to fixed installations and pipeline decommissioning that have been described in the preceding chapters of this guide, other regulations exist which must be complied with. Some are specific to decommissioning work, while others are more general in their nature.

This section brings together a schedule of other mandatory regulations together with descriptions and an overview of key information relating to other requirements.

7.1 FOR ANY TYPE OF DECOMMISSIONING

7.1.1 Marine licences

Since 2009, Part II of the *Food and Environment Protection Act 1985* and Part II of the *Coast Protection Act 1949* have been amended by the *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009* Part 4 Chapter 1, Regulation 66) in England and Wales and by the *Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 Part 4* in Scotland Marine Licensing, see Regulation 21 – Licensable Marine Activities for further guidance.

These regulations redefine licensing and consent controls procedures. Even though many oil and gas activities are now legislated by The Petroleum Act, decommissioning operations are an exception and, to undertake such activities, a marine licence is required.

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</i> <i>Marine (Scotland) Act 2010</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator is responsible for the licensable marine activity
To be referred to:	Scottish Ministers The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

The Operator will require a marine licence for specific tasks that are planned during decommissioning activities if they involve the following:

“To deposit any substance or object within the UK marine licensing area, either in the sea or on or under the sea bed, from:

(a) any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or marine structure

2. To deposit any substance or object anywhere in the sea or on or under the sea bed from

(a) a British vessel, British aircraft or British marine structure

8. To use a vehicle, vessel, aircraft, marine structure or floating container to remove any substance or object from the sea bed within the UK marine licensing area.

10. To deposit or use any explosive substance or article within the UK marine licensing area either in the sea or on or under the sea bed”.

Since many activities are considered licensable, they are not quoted individually in this document. The Operator should determine if a marine licence is required.

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy or Scottish Ministers will determine the conditions for a licence application.

NB: Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, areas of marine conservation are referred to as “Marine Protection Areas”. In the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (England & Wales) these are referred to as a “Marine Conservation Zone”. Special attention must be given to fixed installations located in these areas.

7.1.2 Chemical use and discharge

For specific tasks during decommissioning, such as pipeline cleaning, specific chemicals may need to be used. In this case, attention must be given to regulations that apply to specific chemical use. This subchapter aims to clarify which regulations are likely to apply.

NB: After their use, chemicals are considered waste and other specific regulations apply.

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>The Offshore Chemicals Regulations 2002 The Offshore Chemicals (Amendment) Regulations 2011 The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2005 OSPAR decision 2005/1 amending OSPAR Decision 2000/2 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use And Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator or a company appointed by the licence group or the licensee. If there is only one company or a company appointed by the Operator to undertake the work but in this case it will be notified “on behalf of the Operator”
To be referred to:	OPRED and EA/SEPA (depending on location)

Any chemical used during decommissioning activities will need a chemical permit. Some of them are regulated by these regulations and the permit will be delivered following the OCR (Offshore Chemical Regulations) process.

Others are regulated by The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution, Prevention and Control) Regulations 2005 as amended by The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 which adapts OCR; the permit will be granted following the OPPC (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) process.

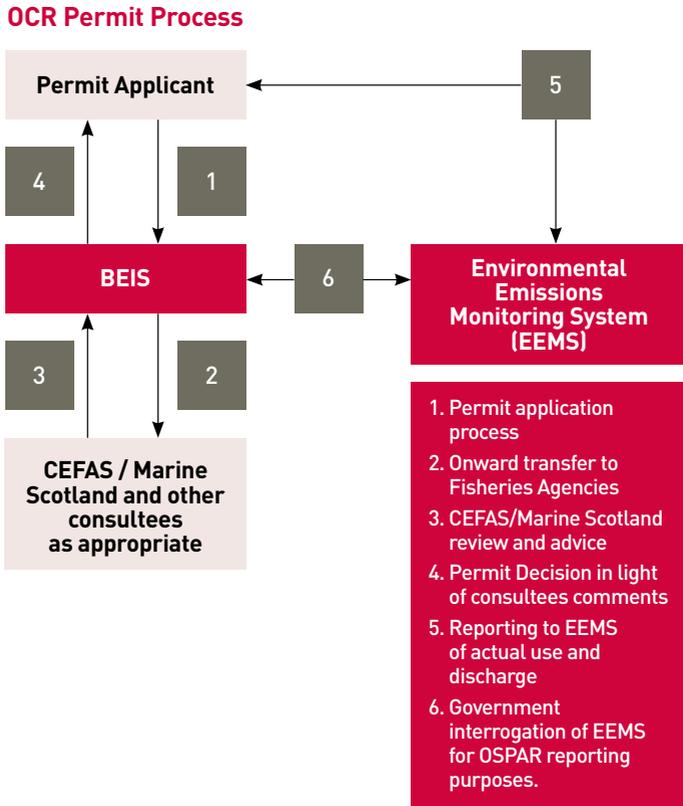
In all cases, companies will need to apply for permits that cover the use and the discharge of chemicals. In the decommissioning context, which represents time-limited operations, uses and discharges are covered by 'Term Permits' in line with OCR.

The OPPC covers oil discharges, while the OCR covers chemicals as well as oil-based drilling fluids. During well suspension, an OPPC permit will be required if there is a discharge of oil. For sand and scale discharges an OPPC permit may be required if they are contaminated with oil, and/or OCR permit is required if there is a discharge of associated solids.

NB: The Offshore Chemicals (Amendment) Regulations 2011 differentiates between types of discharge and other emissions. These discharges are described as "an intentional emission of a chemical or its degradation or transformation products". All other emissions are referred to as releases in the Regulations.

7.1.2.1 Permits under the OCR Regulations

The diagram below illustrates the OCR permit process, showing the links between the permit applicant, BEIS and other bodies: CEFAS/Marine Scotland will advise BEIS. The Environmental Emissions Monitoring System EEMS is used by the Permit Applicant for reporting purposes and it is also used by BEIS for reporting to OSPAR.



The decommissioning of both pipelines and installations are covered by the OCR Permit process; only the standard form will differ. In 2013, DECC (now BEIS) introduced the Portal Environmental Tracking System (PETS), accessed via the UK Energy Portal, which integrates the old style PON15 applications under one centralised Master Application Template (MAT). Each MAT is linked to one of the following activity types:

- Drilling Operation (DRA);
- Well Intervention Operation (WIA);
- Pipeline Operation (PLA);
- Production Operation (PRA);
- Decommissioning Operation (DCA);
- Standalone Application (SA).

Within each MAT, various Subsidiary Application Templates (SATs) can be submitted to obtain the directions/consents/permits/licences that are required for the operation. These SAT applications include:

- Direction(s) under the EIA Regulations;
- Chemical Permit;
- Consent to Locate;
- Oil Discharge Permit (OPPC);
- Marine Licence;
- Geological Survey
- European Protected Species Disturbance Licence.

How to apply for a Permit under OCR

For chemical use or discharge during decommissioning of an offshore installation, a MAT Decommissioning Operations must be applied for through the UK's Energy Portal Environmental Tracking System (PETS).

Refer to Guidance on *OGA website* : https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/media/1103/pets_-_industry_user_guidance_v1_0.pdf

Environmental applications are received and processed via the Portal Environmental Tracking System (PETS).

7.1.2.2 Permits under the OPPC Regulations

The discharge of 'oils' is an activity covered either by the OCR or by the OPPC. On the PETS portal, the user will be required to select which type of operation the application relates to; MAT Type 'Decommissioning Operation'.

Operation Type	Description
Drilling Operation	The drilling of a new exploration, appraisal or development well, or a sidetrack to an existing well, or the completion of a well for production or injection purposes.
Well Intervention	The re-entry of an existing well for the purpose of maintenance, workover, re-completion, suspension or abandonment operations.
Pipeline Operation	The installation, commissioning, operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of a pipeline or control umbilical or a system of related pipelines and/or control umbilicals.
Production Operation	The installation, commissioning, operation, maintenance and repair of 'host' production facilities and any remote production facilities tied-back to the host installation.
Decommissioning Operation	The decommissioning of production facilities.
Standalone	To be used for a standalone application relating to marine surveys, EPS licences, marine licences, and navigational consents.

How to apply for a Permit under OPPC Regulations

If a permit under the OPPC Regulations is required, the Operator must apply using a Subsidiary Application Template (SAT) through the UK Energy Portal.

A period of 28 days should be allowed between the date of the application and the date where the decommissioning activities requiring the oil discharge will start, to avoid delays to the planned activity.

One permit application may cover a number of separate discharge streams containing oils. The permit is not subject to public notice or statutory consultation with other government bodies.

Other cases

Another potential activity that may require a permit is the disposal of surplus chemicals which could be necessary before the decommissioning, e.g. after the cessation of production. This case is not detailed in this document but, if applicable, it is covered by the amended *The Offshore Chemicals (Amendment) Regulations 2011*.

In this case a permit appropriate to the activity for which the chemicals were originally applied for must be submitted.

Concerning the oils discharge:

The Operator of the acreage of the field in which the tied-back facilities are located will usually only be required to obtain a separate Permit if there are direct discharges from the tied-back facilities. Discharges made or mediated via the 'host' installation will normally be included in the relevant Permits relating to the 'host' installation.

7.1.2.3 About REACH

REACH: *Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)* came first into force on 1st of June 2007, to replace a number of European Directives and Regulations relating to chemical production, use and importation. Each substance is studied in respect of its specific uses and aims to explore the real impacts the substance may have on health and the environment.

During the decommissioning operation, specific chemicals may have to be used. Under REACH regulations, the Operator will then be a Downstream User (or end user) of the chemical substance. As a Downstream User, the Operator is not usually required to demonstrate compliance with these regulations, although there is one exception: if the use for which the substance is bought is not referenced in the Safety Data Sheet (to be checked by the Operator), it should be notified to the producer. The producer will then have 12 months to officially declare the use in order to remain compliant with REACH regulations.

This situation ('non-declared use' in the Safety Data Sheet) is unlikely to happen, but the Operator should still be aware of the potential.

7.1.3 Waste

During the lifetime of a fixed installation, different types of waste will be generated, i.e. chemicals, electronic devices, oily water and general waste such as food. Decommissioning time is no exception; although quantities of waste may vary during decommissioning operations, the type of waste will not vary widely from that generated during the operational lifetime of the platform. The legislative compliances, therefore, are unlikely to change.

For this reason, it has been assumed in this document that Operators will already be aware of the requirements concerning waste management and waste transfer. Consequently, only a brief overview of the different regulations and main procedures is provided in this chapter.

7.1.3.1 Waste management

The main regulations concerning waste management are as follows

In Europe:

- *Directive 2008/98/EC on Waste;*
- *Directive 96/59/EC on the Disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT);*
- *Directive 2012/19/EU on Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE);*
- *Directive 2006/66/EC on Batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators;*
- *Directive 2011/65/EU on the Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment;*
- *Directive 1999/31/EC on the Landfill of waste;*
- *Commission Decision 2000/532/EC Establishing a list of wastes;*
- *Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006 on Shipments of waste.*

In the United Kingdom:

- *The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007 as amended by The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (Amendment) Regulations 2014;*
- *The Transfrontier Shipment of Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Regulations 2008;*
- *The Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulations 2007;*
- *The Offshore Chemicals (Amendment) Regulations 2011;*
- *The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2008;*
- *The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 as amended by The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003;*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Part II);*
- *The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2010;*
- *The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009 as amended by The Waste Batteries and Accumulators (Amendment) Regulations 2015.*

In England and Wales:

- *The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012;*
- *The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016;*
- *The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 as amended by The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012;*
- *The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 as amended by The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 and by The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.*

In Scotland:

- *The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012;*
- *The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) (Scotland) Regulations 2014;*
- *The Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2004;*
- *The Landfill (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2003;*
- *The Waste Incineration (Scotland) Regulations 2003;*
- *The Waste Batteries (Scotland) Regulations 2009.*

NB: Special and hazardous waste shares the same meaning, but the term 'special waste' is obsolete in England and Wales (although still used in Scotland) following the publication of The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005.

Within these regulations, there are specific requirements (these apply throughout the UK):

- The overboard disposal of waste from offshore installation is absolutely forbidden, except for ground food wastes if the installation is more than 12 miles away from the nearest land;
- Every offshore installation must have a Garbage Management Plan and a Garbage Record Book;
- Procedures for collecting, storing, processing and disposing of refuse should be provided;
- All hazardous (or special) waste must be correctly classified;
- Any controlled waste should be stored and segregated so as to prevent its escape into the environment. All hazardous (or special) waste is controlled waste.

NB: Other specific wastes are referred to in different regulations, which may apply during decommissioning operations and the Operator should be aware of such compliance. For example, the following regulations may apply: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Waste management) Licensing (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, and The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Amendment (Waste management Licensing) (Scotland) Regulations 2007.

7.1.3.2 Waste transfer

As the disposal of waste offshore is forbidden and all waste must be sent onshore for treatment or disposal, certain requirements must be observed to ensure that onshore regulations are also met.

The main regulations for this issue are the same as for waste management.

The specific requirements are as follows:

- To transfer non-hazardous waste to shore, a Waste Transfer Note is required and must accompany the shipment. The Transfer Note should specify the types and quantities of waste being shipped and provide the basis for onward carriage and disposal.
- If the substance is hazardous or special waste, the transfer will require a Consignment Note, which discharges the requirements of Duty of Care but invokes similar requirements. The Consignment Note must accompany any movement of special or hazardous waste. The application for a Consignment Note must be made to SEPA/EA.

NB: For guidance on Consignment Note Completion in England, see the EA '*Hazardous waste: consignment note guidance*'.

Guidance on Consignment Note Completion in Scotland is provided by SEPA in '*A Guide to Consigning Special Waste*'.

The waste producer must ensure that waste is transferred to a licensed carrier (Waste Carrier Registration, Waste Management Licence of Exemption).

Even if the vessels carrying the waste are not required to be registered, it is the shipmaster's duty to ensure that waste is appropriately handled and stored in line with the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code.

7.1.3.3 International shipment of waste

Different legislation applies if waste is sent to a country where it has not been produced. In this case, the waste producer has to be compliant with *The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007*, which gives effect in the UK to international regulations such as the *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal 1989* and applicable EU law.

For guidance on this particular situation, refer to the following documents:

- EA '*Guidance - Waste: import and export*';
- OECD '*Guidance Manual for the Control, of Transboundary Movements of Recoverable Wastes*';
- Oil and Gas UK - *Transfrontier Shipment*.

7.1.4 Environment

One of the major issues to consider during decommissioning work is the environment. Through different activities, such as chemical use and platform parts removal, harm to the environment is a risk the Operator is responsible for.

Government bodies have issued a series of regulations in respect of planning mitigation measures that minimise risk and take effect in the event of an accident. It is the Operator's duty to remain compliant with all relevant regulations.

7.1.4.1 The Merchant Shipping

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>The Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998</i> <i>The Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) (Amendment) Regulations 2015</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	OPRED

These regulations implement, in part, the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, and apply to every offshore installation in United Kingdom waters and within any area designated under the *Continental Shelf Act 1964*.

These regulations require the Operator of installations and pipelines to prepare an Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (OPEP) and the 2015 amendment takes into account the EU Offshore Safety Directive.

Before any decommissioning work, the Operator (or the company appointed by the Operator to undertake the work) should verify that decommissioning activities have been included in the last version of the OPEP (reviewed at least every five years, Regulation 4-(5)(a)).

If this is not the case, the Operator is responsible for adapting the existing plan to reflect the decommissioning activity "within three months of such change becoming known" (Regulation 4-(5)(b)).

This can be undertaken via amendments or incorporation into the plan or through the submission of a decommissioning specific OPEP. In addition, if offshore installations and oil handling facilities are associated with pipelines, the plans may be submitted jointly (Regulation 4-(2)).

All plans, amendments or advice should be addressed to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy as he "has equivalent powers in relation to offshore installations and pipelines (Regulation 4(7))."

7.1.4.2 Wildlife protection

Prerequisite	Environmental Assessment
Regulations	<i>The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001</i> <i>The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 2007</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	BEIS (in consultation with JNCC and/or countryside agencies)

These regulations implement the Habitats and the Wild Birds Directive, concerning oil and gas activities taking place wholly or partly on the UKCS and within UK waters. It requires the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Regulation 5) to consider any significant negative impact before granting a consent, permit or licence under the *Petroleum Act 1998* if the project is likely to affect a Natura 2000 site.

Through the environmental assessment, BEIS (in consultation with JNCC and/or countryside agencies) will make a decision concerning the likelihood of any significant effect on the habitats and species protected by the regulations. It will also be decided whether an "appropriate assessment" is to be undertaken, in which case, guidance will be provided to the Operator.

Theoretically, these regulations do not apply to artificial habitats created by the infrastructure to be decommissioned. However, the presence of species covered by the regulations and their extent should still be established on the artificial habitats. In some cases, an "appropriate assessment" will be undertaken and mitigation measures will be determined.

NB: Subsea structures such as manifolds, pipelines, wellheads and platform jackets can act as an artificial reef and become a haven for marine life.

7.1.4.3 Lophelia Pertusa coral protection

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	DEFRA

The cold-water coral, *Lophelia Pertusa*, is often present on offshore installations. It is a species quoted in Appendix II of CITES, i.e. it is not currently threatened with extinction, but may become so.

Therefore, if this particular coral is discovered during an environmental study prior to decommissioning, and if the part of the installation where it is installed is to be returned to shore, discussion with the DEFRA will become necessary. This will ensure the requirements of CITES are met.

7.1.4.4 Environmental surveys – Recording the results

Some environmental permits will ask the Operator specifically to report certain emissions and discharges. The Operator must:

- Report the results within the timescales specified by the permit conditions;
- Report the emissions and discharges through the Energy Portal. Reporting it by any other means will breach the permit condition.

7.1.5 Transport

For safety reasons, offshore material transport, work in harbours and export are regulated activities. The type of potential accident is as wide as the requirements for managing the risk, so this chapter aims to indicate where information can be found.

NB: The waste transfer is explained in the earlier Waste chapter.

7.1.5.1 Port Areas

The control of work with dangerous substances in port areas (i.e. loading, unloading, carriage and storage) are dealt with via the following regulations:

- *The Dangerous Goods in Harbour Areas Regulations 2016;*
- *The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011;*
- *The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016.*

Every duty holder planning to undertake such activities during the decommissioning process should contact the HSE for more guidance on the specific requirements.

Similar Waste Management Licensing Regulations also exist for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Further details can be found via the *UK Legislation Website*.

7.1.5.2 Coast Protection

Prerequisite	Decommissioning schedule
Regulations	Section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949
Responsibility of:	Any person planning to carry out the activities described in the Section 34(1) of Part II
To be referred to:	Secretary of State for Transport

"Before a structure can be placed on the UKCS, the consent of the Department of Transport is required under Section. 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as applied to designated areas of the UKCS by s.4(1) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964."

The application procedure varies within the United Kingdom; the duty holder should contact the appropriate government body for guidance on the procedure.

7.1.6 Radioactive material

During fixed installations operations, radioactive materials can be used, i.e. through gauging equipment or work with radiotracer and Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORMs) can be generated or accumulated (scales or sludges).

As radioactive materials represent a risk for health and safety, they must be handled properly. Several British regulations provide guidance and requirements on handling, treatment and disposal methods.

As it has been assumed that the Operator will have to deal with radioactive material before decommissioning every regulation will not be detailed here, but the main decommissioning requirements are highlighted.

7.1.6.1 Main regulations

There are numerous legal requirements relating to safety during decommissioning work involving radioactive materials. Compliance with the regulations and standards listed below is mandatory when carrying out such operations:

- *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974;*
- *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013;*
- *The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999;*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1990;*
- *Radioactive Substances Act 1993;*
- *Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2011;*
- *Radioactive Substances Exemption (Scotland) Order 2011;*
- *The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 plus the associated Approved Code of Practice (ACOP);*
- *The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002;*
- *The Pollution, Prevention and Control Regulations (England and Wales) 2000.*

Concerning radioactive waste, the following regulations also apply:

- *The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005;*
- *The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2009;*
- *The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016;*
- *The Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2004;*
- *The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011;*
- *The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012;*
- *The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.*

7.1.6.2 Regulations and principles specific to decommissioning

Of the regulations listed, some are applicable when using radioactive materials or dealing with radioactive waste; others contain particular requirements for decommissioning operations.

Certain safety and environmental principles should be met throughout decommissioning time.

7.1.6.3 Guidance

It has been assumed that the need to handle radioactive materials, such as NORM, LSA scale and radiography sources, will have occurred during the operational phase of the facility life cycle. However, if guidance is needed, the HSE provides further information as follows:

- *HSE Offshore Safety Division Operations Notice 4 – Radioactive Substances Act 1993;*
- *HSE Radiation Guidance.*

7.1.7 Wells

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>The Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations 1996</i> <i>The Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	OGA

The OGA is responsible for regulation in relation to the decommissioning of wells. Industry guidelines on well abandonment are available at <https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/decommissioning/wells/>

This regulation shall apply in Britain and where Sections 4(1) and 2(b) of the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013* apply.

The two relevant regulations for this report are as follows:

"10. Decommissioning and dismantlement

The duty holder shall ensure that an installation is decommissioned and dismantled in such a way that, so far as is reasonably practicable, it will possess sufficient integrity to enable such decommissioning and dismantlement to be carried out safely."

"15. Design with a view to suspension and abandonment

The well operator shall ensure that a well is so designed and constructed that, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- a. It can be suspended or abandoned in a safe manner and*
- b. After its suspension or abandonment there can be no unplanned escape of fluids from it or from the reservoir to which it led"*

Even if these regulations are applied during the design and the construction phases of offshore installations and wells, while planning the decommissioning, the duty holder should still ensure both regulations are adhered to. This means, for example, that wells will be suspended following the design provision in order to avoid any escape of fluids.

Whilst the current UK regulations are non-prescriptive in relation to Wells Abandonment, in particular on any future risks of uncontrolled release post Abandonment, Operators should be aware that the regulations may change in the future. Operators should always consider best Abandonment practices when planning and executing Wells' Abandonment. In addition UK Abandonment regulations listed below should be taken into account:

"13.—(1) The well-operator shall ensure that a well is so designed, modified, commissioned, constructed, equipped, operated, maintained, suspended and abandoned that—

- a. (a)so far as is reasonably practicable, there can be no unplanned escape of fluids from the well; and*
- b. (b)risks to the health and safety of persons from it or anything in it, or in strata to which it is connected, are as low as is reasonably practicable.*

(2) The provisions of regulations 14 to 19 and 21 are without prejudice to the generality of the requirements of paragraph (1) save that, where regulation 17(2) places a duty on the duty holder for an installation, the well-operator is not under the same duty."

"16. The well-operator shall ensure that every part of a well is composed of material which is suitable for achieving the purposes described in regulation 13(1)."

NB: Separate legislation exists in Northern Ireland, *The Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996*, however the requirements of Regulations 10 & 13 are standardised.

7.1.8 Safety

During decommissioning work, particular attention should be paid to safety. This relates to working methods and mitigation measures taken to ensure that no harm will arise to employees, any other person or the environment. It also aims to ensure that work on the removed installations or pipelines will be handled properly and that any additional risks arising through decommissioning work will be controlled and managed.

A range of statutory health and safety provisions will then have to be complied with. For example, the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* makes some requirements, either generally relating to the employee's safety at all times or, more specifically, where installations, pipelines and/or waste are brought onshore.

As there are too many potential situations to cover in this document, these other regulations and/or requirements are not detailed in this report. More regulatory details or advice on specific cases can be obtained from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which enforces all safety regulations.

Part of the regulations	HSE's Department
Offshore health and safety legislation	Hazardous Installations Directorate
Pipeline safety legislation	Hazardous Installations Directorate
Application of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (and regulations made under the Act)	For any activities associated with decommissioning carried out onshore:

7.1.9 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health compliance

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002</i> <i>The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 2004</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	HSE

As decommissioning activities are likely to involve the use of hazardous substances, the Operator must adhere to the requirements of COSHH regulations.

Under COSHH regulations, the employer must undertake a detailed risk assessment to ensure that exposure to hazardous substances is either prevented or adequately controlled.

7.1.10 Miscellaneous

Other regulations may be relevant during decommissioning operations; the Operator must ensure that the decommissioning work is compliant with these regulations, where appropriate.

Regulations	Subject
<i>The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2012</i>	Legal requirements for the dismantling and disposal of asbestos and asbestos containing materials
<i>The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998</i> <i>The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989</i>	Relevant generally to items of plant and infrastructure, and there are other regulations that will apply only to specific items, for example regulations pertaining to pressure vessels
<i>The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015</i>	Any required dismantling of buildings will be undertaken in accordance with the other requirements
<i>The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012</i> <i>The Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (England and Wales) 2000 Including amendments</i>	All activities associated with decommissioning must be designed to take an integrated environmental approach to prevent pollution of the local and global environment

7.2 SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

Aside from the regulations outlined above, other specifications may be subject to compliance with other regulations. This section aims to highlight other regulations. It will be the Operator's duty to determine if any are applicable for installation decommissioning.

7.2.1 Combined Decommissioning Programmes

In some cases, it can be agreed with OPRED that it would be beneficial to include more than one programme within the same decommissioning document (e.g. in the context of simultaneous pipelines and platform decommissioning). In this situation, the programme should take account of the following:

- A clear statement in the introduction should specify that the document contains more than one programme, one for each set of associated Section 29 Notice Holders;
- The obligations associated with each programme should also be clearly identified in the introduction;
- A list indicating which installations or pipelines are covered by each programme and which company will be involved in each programme should also be included;
- The costs section should clearly identify which costs refer to each programme;
- Notice 29 Holders can be different companies: pipeline duty holders are not always the installation duty holders, for example. In a combined Decommissioning Programme, if the responsibility for any survey and monitoring requirements is specific to a programme, it should be clearly indicated. Otherwise, it should be clearly specified that a collective responsibility is shared between all companies;
- A schedule covering the work for all programmes should be included.

NB: There is no need to duplicate sections. If a section contains information relating to separate programmes, subsections can be used to highlight the allocation. Decommissioning proposals for pipelines should be contained within a separate programme in order to be able to clearly identify the specific decommissioning obligations that apply to the lines, which may have different owners from the installations.

7.2.2 Decommissioning on Transboundary Fields

The Unit Operator is responsible for preparing a decommissioning plan for the field and field installations and facilities. The plan is subject to approval by the competent authorities in the country where the installations and facilities are located, in consultation with the authorities of the other country. If there are installations and facilities on both sides of the delimitation line, a joint plan may be submitted subject to agreement by the competent authorities of both countries.

7.2.3 Offshore combustion installations

7.2.3.1 The Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme Regulations

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>The Greenhouse Gases Emission Trading Scheme (Ets) Regulations 2003</i> <i>The Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme Regulations 2012</i> <i>The Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2013</i> <i>The Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2014</i> <i>The Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2015</i>
Responsibility of:	The permit holder under these regulations
To be referred to:	BEIS

These regulations support the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EUETS).

If the aggregated thermal capacity of the combustion equipment on the installation exceeds 20 MW, the Operator should apply for a permit covering the emission of greenhouse gases (presently only CO₂) prior to decommissioning.

When the aggregated thermal capacity falls below the threshold of 20 MW, the Operator must surrender it. Once the permit is surrendered, "the installation will then be deemed "closed", and will drop out of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Installations will be able to retain and trade any surplus allowances for the year of "closure", i.e. when they fall below the threshold and drop out of the Scheme, but will not receive any allowances for future years."

Regulation 13 provides information on the procedure to surrender the permit. Further details can be obtained by contacting BEIS.

Also, to provide evidence of the allowances surrendered, an independent verification under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme will be necessary.

7.2.3.2 Pollution Prevention and Control

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>The Offshore Combustion Installations (Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2013</i>
Responsibility of:	The permit holder under these regulations
To be referred to:	BEIS – The Environmental Management Team

These regulations support Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) for offshore oil and gas installations.

These regulations require that, if the aggregated thermal capacity of the combustion equipment on the installation exceeds 50 MW(th), the Operator must apply for a permit.

When the decommissioning operations are planned, a forecast of when the aggregated thermal capacity of the combustion equipment on the installations will fall below the 50 MW(th) threshold can be made. The Operator is then required to surrender the permit by notice to BEIS for this period.

As no specifications have been published concerning this element of the regulations, the Operator should reference the following for more information and contact points::

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oil-and-gas-legislation-on-emissions-and-releases>

7.2.4 Environment

7.2.4.1 Cuttings Piles

Drill cuttings are materials extracted during drilling operations; deposited drill cuttings on the seabed are referred to as cutting piles. In some cases, cutting piles surround the platform footings and measures should be taken to manage them during decommissioning operations. OSPAR Recommendation 2006/5 on a Management Regime for Offshore Cuttings Piles covers this issue, moreover the Norwegian Oil and Gas Association published Guidance for characterization of offshore drill cutting piles.

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>OSPAR Recommendation 2006/5 on a Management Regime for Offshore Cuttings Piles</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator
To be referred to:	OPRED

The Management Regime for Offshore Cuttings Piles is divided into two stages:

- 1 Within two years of the recommendation taking effect (i.e. before the 30th June 2008), the first stage should have been carried out, i.e. the screening of every cutting pile should have been undertaken to determine the cutting piles that are in need of further investigation.
- 2 If the results of the stage one investigation appear to be above the thresholds, Stage two should be initiated (described in detail on the recommendation). The timing would usually have been determined by the Operator, in accordance with OPRED and taking into account the results of stage one.

At the time of decommissioning, the following scenarios may arise:

- No further investigation is required after the first screening, but further investigations have been carried out and the outcome shows that the cutting piles could be left in place. Therefore, no more action is necessary regarding the cutting piles during the decommissioning;
- Further investigations have been carried out and the results are above the required thresholds, but the work regarding the cutting piles has already been done. No further action is necessary;
- The investigations show results above the thresholds and stage two, normally as detailed in the document, indicates the cutting piles will be treated or removed while the decommissioning work is underway. In this case, the Operator must take these findings into account and add the work on the cutting piles into the scope of work.

If the Operator plans to leave the cutting piles in place, the OSPAR Decision states that an authorisation from the competent authorities is needed. In this case and in the absence of specific regulations, the Operator should contact OPRED to discuss the assessment and notification procedures.

7.2.5 Explosives

The use of explosives during decommissioning is considered to pose a risk to marine life. For this reason, two regulations and JNCC guidelines have been developed. It is the Operator's duty to comply with these regulations when using explosives.

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010</i> <i>The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2011</i> <i>The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012</i> <i>The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007</i> <i>The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2009</i> <i>The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2010</i> <i>The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2012</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator or any person designed by the Operator to undertake works with explosives on his behalf
To be referred to:	OPRED and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Guidelines

To kill, injure or disturb European marine protected species (including all cetaceans, such as whales, dolphins or porpoises) is an offence under *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010* and *The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007*. It has been recognised that the sound generated from explosive use has the potential to cause injury or death to marine mammals. The JNCC produced guidelines to help the potential users of explosives minimise such risks. Therefore, if any explosive activities are planned for the decommissioning work, the Operator, or any person working on the behalf of the Operator, must ensure compliance with these guidelines.

The guidelines define the protocols to be followed during the planning and the explosive activity. The three main stages are as follows:

1. The planning stage;
2. During the explosives activity;
3. Reporting to JNCC.

For more information on these requirements, consult the JNCC guidelines '*Minimising the risk of disturbance and injury to marine mammals whilst using explosives*' and '*The protection of marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance*'.

7.2.6 Export Control

If some parts of the decommissioned fixed installations, including pipelines, floating units or individual items are to be re-used outside the UKCS, a licence may be required, depending on the nature of the re-used part.

Prerequisite	None
Regulations	<i>The Export of Goods, Transfer of Technology and Provision of Technical Assistance (Control) (Amendment) Order 2008</i> <i>The Export of Radioactive Sources (Control) Order 20066</i>
Responsibility of:	The Operator or any person designed by the Operator to undertake the export
To be referred to:	BEIS Export Control Joint Unit

An export licence is unlikely to be required except if the goods are listed in the Schedules of the Export Control Order 2008. If this is the case, an OGEL (Open General Export Licence) is required.

Schedules 1 and 2 are related to security, military or para-military goods, software and technology. Schedule 3 is related to dual technology - that is technology that can be used for both military and civil use.

Further information relating to the export of decommissioned equipment from the UKCS can be found on the Export Control Organisation website on the Export Control Policy and Consultations.

7.3 SUMMARY

The list of other mandatory regulations detailed in this section has been intended to provide key information concerning further legislation and procedural obligations that govern offshore decommissioning projects.

If the regulatory information you require is not included in this document, please contact Bureau Veritas;

Phone: +44 (0) 1224 892100

Email: decommissioning@uk.bureauveritas.com

8 *Key Regulations & References*

UK Laws:

- Coast Protection Act 1949
- Continental Shelf Act 1964
- Energy Act 2016
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009
- Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
- Petroleum Act 1987
- Petroleum Act 1998
- Radioactive Substances Act 1993

UK Regulations:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2011
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015
- The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 2004
- The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012
- The Dangerous Goods in Harbour Areas Regulations 2016
- The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989
- The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016
- The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) (Scotland) Regulations 2014
- The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003
- The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991
- The Export Control Order 2008
- The Export of Radioactive Sources (Control) Order 2006
- The Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2013
- The Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2014
- The Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2012
- The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016

UK Regulations (continued):

- The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
- The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2013
- The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 & Approved Code of Practice (ACOP)
- The Landfill (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2003
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- The Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998
- The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2008
- The Offshore Chemicals (Amendment) Regulations 2011
- The Offshore Chemicals Regulations 2002
- The Offshore Combustion Installations (Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2013
- The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015
- The Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016
- The Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007
- The Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 2005
- The Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulations 1995
- The Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction etc.) Regulations 1996
- The Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996
- The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2017
- The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
- The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2010
- The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations 2007

UK Regulations (continued):

- The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Conservation of Habitats) Regulations 2001
- The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) (Amendment) Regulations 2011
- The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2005
- The Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulations 2007
- The Pipelines Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2003
- The Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996
- The Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2012
- The Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (England and Wales) 2000
- The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
- The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2011
- The Radioactive Substances Exemption (Scotland) Order 2011
- The Special Waste Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2004
- The Special Waste (Scotland) Regulations 1997
- The Transfrontier Shipment of Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Regulations 2008
- The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (Amendment) Regulations 2014
- The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (Amendment) Regulations 2008
- The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007
- The Waste (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012
- The Waste Batteries (Scotland) Regulations 2009
- The Waste Batteries and Accumulators (Amendment) Regulations 2015
- The Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Amendment) Regulations 2010
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Amendment (Waste management Licensing) (Scotland) Regulations 2007
- The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (Waste management) Licensing (England and Wales) Regulations 2006
- The Waste Incineration (Scotland) Regulations 2003
- The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Regulations 2011
- The Waste Management Licensing (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016

European Directives:

- Directive 2006/66/EC on Batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators
- Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)
- Directive 2013/30/EU on safety of offshore oil & gas operations
- Directive 2011/65/EU on the Restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment
- Directive 96/59/EC on the Disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT)
- Directive 1999/31/EC on the Landfill of waste
- Directive 2012/19/EU on Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)
- Directive 2008/98/EC on Waste.

European Regulations:

- Commissioning Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/699 (WEE)
- Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 on Shipments of waste
- Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)
- Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013 on ship recycling and amending Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 and Directive 2009/16/EC

European Commission Decisions:

- 2000/532/EC: Commission Decision of 3 May 2000 replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes
- 2014/955/EU Commission Decision of 18 December 2014 amending Decision 2000/532/EC

OSPAR:

- OSPAR decision 2005/1 amending OSPAR Decision 2000/2 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use And Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals
- OSPAR Decision 98/3 on the Disposal of Disused Offshore Installations
- OSPAR Recommendation 2006/5 on a Management Regime for Offshore Cuttings Piles

Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC):

- Resolution MEPC.117(52) adopted on 15 October 2004 Amendments to the Annex of the protocol of 1978 relating to the international convention for the prevention of pollution from ships, 1973.
- Resolution MEPC.117(52)
- Resolution MEPC.169(57)

International Maritime Organisation (IMO):

- 1974 SOLAS Convention (Safety of Life at Sea)
- BWM.2/Circ.34/Rev.4
- IMO Resolution A. 672(16)
- International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments 2004

International Maritime Organisation (IMO):

- Assessment Principles for Offshore Safety Cases (APOSC)
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal 1989
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
- DECC Guidance Notes "Decommissioning of Offshore Oil and Gas Installations and Pipelines under the Petroleum Act 1998"
- Decommissioning Roadmap
- Disused Pipeline Notification
- EA "Guidance - Waste: import and export"
- EA "Hazardous waste: consignment note guidance"
- Norwegian Oil and Gas Association - Guidance for characterization of offshore drill cutting piles
- Oil and Gas UK - Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement during Decommissioning Activities
- HSE Offshore Safety Division Operations Notice 4 - Radioactive Substances Act 1993
- HSE Radiation Guidance
- JNCC guidelines 'Minimising the risk of disturbance and injury to marine mammals whilst using explosives'
- JNCC guidelines 'The protection of marine European Protected Species from injury and disturbance'
- OECD 'Guidance Manual for the Control, of Transboundary Movements of Recoverable Wastes'
- Oil and Gas UK - Transfrontier Shipment
- PETS - Industry User Guidance
- Pipelines Works Authorisations
- SEPA - 'A Guide to Consigning Special Waste'
- Streamlined Decommissioning Programme Template (Non-Derogation Cases)
- The Hong Kong Convention on the Safe and Environmentally sound Recycling of Ships 2009
- UK Legislation Website