

1977 No. 486

OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS
The Offshore Installations (Life-saving Appliances)
Regulations 1977

<i>Made</i> - - - -	16th March 1977
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	24th March 1977
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	1st June 1977

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Whereas the Secretary of State has consulted pursuant to section 7(1) of the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971(a) (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) with organisations in the United Kingdom appearing to him to be representative of those persons who will be affected by the following Regulations:

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State, in exercise of his powers under sections 6 and 7 of, and paragraphs 1(1), 4(1), 7, 8(2), 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Schedule to, the Act, as extended and amended by section 44 of the Petroleum and Submarine Pipe-lines Act 1975(b), and of all other powers enabling him in that

(a) 1971 c. 61.

(b) 1975 c. 74.

behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Offshore Installations (Life-saving Appliances) Regulations 1977 and shall come into operation on 1st June 1977.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“appropriate languages”, in relation to any information to be displayed under these Regulations, means English and such other languages as are necessary to enable the information to be understood by all persons on the installation who may need to refer to it.

“fixed offshore installation” means an offshore installation which is not a mobile offshore installation;

“inspector” means a person appointed as an inspector under section 6(4) of the Act;

“installation manager” includes, where no manager of an offshore installation is appointed pursuant to section 4 of the Act, any person made responsible by the owner for safety, health and welfare on the installation;

“life-saving appliance” means any equipment required to be provided under these Regulations;

“mobile offshore installation” means an offshore installation which can be moved from place to place without major dismantling or modification, whether or not it has its own motive power;

“normally manned offshore installation” means an offshore installation on which persons are normally present;

“totally enclosed motor propelled survival craft” means a motor propelled survival craft of rigid construction specially designed and constructed for carrying persons safely through fire on water.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(a) shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Application

3. These Regulations shall apply to—

(a) fixed offshore installations maintained for underwater exploitation or exploration to which the Act applies; and

(b) mobile offshore installations, not being dredging installations registered (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere) as vessels, when maintained for underwater exploitation or exploration to which the Act applies.

Life-saving appliances—general

4.—(1) Every survival craft, life raft, life buoy and life jacket with which an offshore installation is provided shall—

(a) be of a type for the time being approved by the Secretary of State for offshore installations of a class or description which includes that installation;

(a) 1889 c. 63.

- (b) be properly constructed of suitable materials having regard to its life-saving function and the circumstances in which it may be used or kept ready for use; and
 - (c) be of such colour as will make it conspicuous when in use.
- (2) All life-saving appliances shall be available for immediate use and shall, where necessary, be protected from damage.

Survival craft and life rafts

- 5.—(1) Every normally manned offshore installation shall be provided with—
- (a) totally enclosed motor propelled survival craft having, in the aggregate, sufficient capacity to accommodate safely on board all persons on the installation; and
 - (b) either—
 - (i) additional totally enclosed motor propelled survival craft having, in the aggregate, together with the survival craft provided under sub-paragraph (a) above, sufficient capacity to accommodate safely on board $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the number of persons on the installation; or
 - (ii) additional survival craft or life rafts having, in the aggregate, together with the survival craft provided under sub-paragraph (a) above, sufficient capacity to accommodate safely on board twice the number of persons on the installation.
- (2) There shall be provided in respect of every totally enclosed motor propelled survival craft provided under paragraph (1) above devices whereby the craft may be—
- (a) lowered into the water by one person on the craft; and
 - (b) when closed down, disengaged from its launching apparatus by one person inside the craft.
- (3) There shall be displayed inside every totally enclosed motor propelled survival craft clear instructions in appropriate languages for disengaging the craft from its launching apparatus and for operating the craft.
- (4) The survival craft or life rafts provided under paragraph (1) above shall be suitably positioned having regard to the number of persons likely to be present in different parts of the installation.
- (5) All apparatus for launching a survival craft or life raft shall be of such strength that the craft or raft can be safely lowered into the water when loaded with its full complement of persons and equipment and so arranged that the craft or raft can be so lowered without risk of obstruction.
- (6) There shall be displayed near all apparatus for launching a survival craft or life raft clear instructions in appropriate languages for operating the apparatus.
- (7) Every survival craft and life raft (other than an inflatable life raft) provided under paragraph (1) above shall be clearly and permanently marked with the name or other designation of the installation.
- (8) Every survival craft and life raft so provided shall be equipped with—
- (a) a waterproof electric hand lamp suitable for signalling;
 - (b) a sufficient supply of clean wholesome drinking water having regard to the number of persons that the survival craft is intended to accommodate, safely kept in suitable containers;

(c) a suitable first-aid outfit having regard to the number of persons the survival craft is intended to accommodate containing in particular in a suitable receptacle clearly marked with directions for use 6 morphine ampoule syringes filled with a solution of either—

- (i) a morphine salt equivalent to anhydrous morphine, 15 milligrams in 1 cc; or
- (ii) papaveretum BPC, 30 milligrams in 1 cc.

(9) Every totally enclosed motor propelled survival craft so provided shall be provided with a radio of a type for the time being approved by the Secretary of State capable of transmitting and receiving on 2182 kHz or VHF Channel 16.

(10) Every offshore installation provided with motor propelled survival craft shall also be provided with a suitable set of tools and spare parts for repairing each type of engine installed in those craft.

(11) Each set of tools and spare parts provided under paragraph (10) above shall be kept in a secure container of substantial construction bearing on the outside, in clear and permanent capital letters, the words "EMERGENCY REPAIR KIT—FOR USE ONLY IN THE REPAIR OF SURVIVAL CRAFT ENGINES".

Life buoys

6.—(1) Life buoys shall be provided on every offshore installation in such numbers and stowed in such places that at least one is readily accessible from any part of a deck of the installation from which a person is liable to fall into the water.

(2) Every life buoy so provided shall be stowed so that it can be readily cast loose.

(3) Every life buoy so provided shall be marked in clear and permanent capital letters with the name or other designation of the installation.

(4) Every life buoy so provided shall have attached to it a self-igniting buoyant light lit by an electric battery and inextinguishable in water.

Life jackets

7.—(1) Every offshore installation shall be provided with at least as many life jackets as $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the number of persons on the installation.

(2) Every life jacket so provided shall, except when worn, be stowed at a suitable place on the installation and be readily available for use at all times.

(3) A conspicuous indication that life jackets are kept in the vicinity shall be displayed at each place where life jackets are stowed under paragraph (2) above.

Means of escape

8.—(1) Every offshore installation shall be provided with suitable and sufficient means for persons to descend from the installation to the water in an emergency in addition to any life-saving appliances provided under Regulation 5 above.

(2) Any appliance used in the means so provided which does not form part of the installation shall be stowed so as to be readily available and so designed and constructed as to be capable of withstanding wind and waves when in use.

Alarm and public address system

9.—(1) On every normally manned offshore installation there shall be provided—

- (a) a general alarm system capable of raising the alarm by signals audible at every part of the installation where aural communication is practicable; and
- (b) a public address system capable of being heard distinctly at all parts of the installation where persons are frequently present and aural communication is practicable.

(2) Each of the systems provided under paragraph (1) above shall also be capable of—

- (a) providing a conspicuous visible warning in every part of the installation—
 - (i) in the case of the general alarm system, where aural communication is not practicable, and
 - (ii) in the case of the public address system, where persons are frequently present and aural communication is not practicable; and

(3) Each of the systems so provided above shall be supplied by two sources of electric power which shall be independent of each other and of which one shall be so designed as to be available in any emergency.

(4) There shall be displayed at or near to each place for operating either of the systems so provided clear instructions in appropriate languages for operating it.

Life-saving appliance plans

10.—(1) There shall be kept on every offshore installation or at such other place as may be approved by an inspector a plan showing the position of all life-saving appliances (except life jackets issued to particular persons) on the installation.

(2) Copies of or extracts from the plan with such explanation in the appropriate languages as may be necessary shall be so displayed as to enable a person in any living accommodation or working space on an offshore installation readily to ascertain the position of all life-saving appliances in the vicinity.

Examination of life-saving appliances

11.—(1) On or after 1st June 1978 no person shall be present on any offshore installation unless the life-saving appliances and the plans required to be kept or displayed under Regulation 10 above on that installation have been examined by a person acting at the direction of the Secretary of State since these Regulations came into operation and in any case within the preceding 2 years.

(2) A copy of any certificate issued by the Secretary of State as to the result of any such examination shall be kept on the installation or at such other place as an inspector may approve and be open to inspection by any person on or (as the case may be) about to visit the installation.

(3) There shall be furnished to the Secretary of State within 7 days of any replacement of a life-saving appliance on an offshore installation by a life-saving appliance of a different type full particulars in writing of that replacement.

(4) The owner of any offshore installation in respect of which an examination is carried out under paragraph (1) above shall pay to the Secretary of State on demand a fee for the examination calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule to these Regulations.

Copies of Regulations

12. A copy of these Regulations shall be kept on every normally manned offshore installation and be open to inspection by any person on the installation.

Duties of persons

13. It shall be the duty of the owner of an offshore installation and of the installation manager and of the concession owner to ensure that these Regulations (except Regulation 11(4) above) are complied with.

Civil liability

14. The provisions of section 11 of the Act (which makes provision for civil liability for breach of statutory duty) shall apply to the duties imposed on any person by these Regulations.

Offences

15.—(1) In the event of any contravention of any of these Regulations (except Regulation 11(4) above) in or in connection with, or in relation to, an offshore installation, the installation manager, the concession owner and the owner of the installation shall each be guilty of an offence.

(2) If any person enters any information knowing it to be false in any document issued under these Regulations or knowingly falsifies any such document or uses any such document for the purposes of these Regulations knowing it to be false, that person shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) It shall be a defence in any proceedings for an offence under paragraph (1) above for the accused to prove—

- (a) that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence; and
- (b) that the relevant contravention was committed without his consent, connivance or wilful default.

Tony Benn,
Secretary of State for Energy.

16th March 1977.

Regulation 11(4)

SCHEDULE

EXAMINATION FEES

The fee payable for an examination carried out in respect of any offshore installation under Regulation 11(1) shall be—

- (a) a sum based on the time spent by the person carrying out the examination on carrying it out and in travelling to and from the installation calculated in accordance with the table below.

TABLE

<i>Time spent</i>	<i>Rate per hour or part thereof</i>
On any day except a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday—	
Between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.	£14.40
Before 6 a.m. or after 6 p.m.	£28.80
On a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday	£35.00
and	

- (b) a sum equal to the cost of travelling and subsistence expenses reasonably incurred by the person carrying out the examination.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations made under the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971, as extended and amended by the Petroleum and Submarine Pipe-lines Act 1975, apply to fixed and mobile offshore installations (except dredging installations) maintained for the underwater exploitation or exploration of mineral resources in waters to which the Act of 1971 applies. The Regulations come into operation on 1st June 1977.

The Regulations require the provision of life buoys, life jackets and means for descending to the water on every offshore installation to which they apply. They also require the provision of survival craft, and general alarm and public address systems on every such installation which is normally manned. There are also provisions requiring the keeping and display of plans of life-saving appliances and prohibiting persons being present on any offshore installation on or after 1st June 1978 unless the required life-saving appliances and plans have been examined by a person acting at the direction of the Secretary of State since the Regulations came into operation and in any case within the preceding 2 years. Other provisions require the display of certificates as to the results of such examinations and the payment of fees for them.

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