

Status: Law In Force

Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion, and Emergency Response) Regulations 1995/743

This version in force from: **July 19, 2015 to present**

(version 2 of 2)

4.— General duty

(1) The duty holder shall take appropriate measures with a view to-

(a) protecting persons on the installation from fire and explosion; and

(b) securing effective emergency response.

(2) Any more detailed requirement in [[regulations 6 to 21 and 22A to 22C](#)] ¹ for the purposes referred to in paragraph (1) shall be without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1).

Notes

¹ . Words inserted by Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015/398 [Sch.13\(1\) para.19](#) (July 19, 2015: insertion has effect subject to transitional provisions and savings specified in SI 2015/398 Sch.14)

Subject: Energy **Other related subjects:** Health and safety at work

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6.— Preparation for emergencies

(1) The duty holder shall establish such appropriate organisation and arrangements as are to have effect in, or in anticipation of, an emergency and which shall include arrangements-

(a) for command by competent persons which can be maintained, so far as is practicable, throughout an emergency;

(b) for there to be a sufficient number of persons on the installation competent to undertake emergency duties and operate relevant equipment;

(c) in the case of an installation on which personnel are present, for a sufficient number of such persons to be in attendance at the helicopter landing area during helicopter movements; [...] ¹

(d) for lists of persons referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above to be posted at suitable locations on the installation when persons are present [; and] ²

[

(e) in relation to external waters only, for coordinating the emergency response with the response planned pursuant to the external emergency response plan.

] ³

(2) The duty holder shall ensure that every person on the installation-

(a) is provided with adequate instruction and training in the appropriate action to take in an emergency [, including how to co-ordinate with persons responding to an emergency who are not on the installation when the emergency begins] ⁴ ; and

(b) can consult written information on the use of emergency plant.

Notes

1. Word revoked by Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015/398 [Sch.13\(2\) para.1](#) (July 19, 2015: revocation has effect subject to transitional provisions and savings specified in SI 2015/398 Sch.14)
2. Word inserted by Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015/398 [Sch.13\(1\) para.21\(2\)\(i\)](#) (July 19, 2015: insertion has effect subject to transitional provisions and savings specified in SI 2015/398 Sch.14)
3. Added by Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015/398 [Sch.13\(1\) para.21\(2\)\(ii\)](#) (July 19, 2015: insertion has effect subject to transitional provisions and savings specified in SI 2015/398 Sch.14)
4. Words inserted by Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015/398 [Sch.13\(1\) para.21\(3\)](#) (July 19, 2015: insertion has effect subject to transitional provisions and savings specified in SI 2015/398 Sch.14)

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7. Equipment for helicopter emergencies

The duty holder shall ensure that there is kept available near the helicopter landing area equipment necessary for use in the event of an accident involving a helicopter.

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8.— Emergency response plan

(1) The duty holder shall, after consulting persons who are likely to become involved in emergency response, prepare and, as often as is appropriate, revise a document (in this regulation called "*the emergency response plan*") containing sufficient information, for the guidance of such persons, on-

(a) the organisation and arrangements which are to have effect in an emergency; and

(b) procedures by way of emergency response to be followed in different circumstances.

(2) The duty holder shall ensure that-

(a) the emergency response plan is available to all persons on the installation; and

(b) each person on the installation, and each person who may be called upon to assist in implementing the emergency response plan, are given such notification of its contents as is sufficient for them.

(3) The duty holder shall ensure that the organisation, arrangements and procedures referred to in paragraph (1) are tested, by practice and otherwise, as often as may be appropriate.

(4) Every person on the installation shall, in an emergency, so far as is practicable, conform to the appropriate procedure in the plan.

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9.— Prevention of fire and explosion

(1) The duty holder shall take appropriate measures with a view to preventing fire and explosion, including such measures to-

(a) ensure the safe production, processing, use, storage, handling, treatment, movement and other dealings with flammable and explosive substances;

(b) prevent the uncontrolled release of flammable or explosive substances;

(c) prevent the unwanted or unnecessary accumulation of combustible, flammable or explosive substances and atmospheres; and

(d) prevent the ignition of such substances and atmospheres.

(2) The measures to prevent ignition referred to in paragraph (1) shall include-

(a) identifying and designating areas in which there is a risk of a flammable or explosive atmosphere occurring;

(b) controlling the carrying on of hazardous activities in such areas;

(c) ensuring that, save under procedures pursuant to sub-paragraph (b) above, no plant is used in such areas unless suitable for use within them; and

(d) controlling the placing or use in such areas of electrical fixtures or other sources of ignition.

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10. Detection of incidents

The duty holder shall take appropriate measures-

(a) with a view to detecting fire and other events which may require emergency response, including the provision of means for-

(i) detecting and recording accumulations of flammable or toxic gases; and

(ii) identifying leakages of flammable liquids; and

(b) with a view to enabling information regarding such incidents to be conveyed forthwith to places from which control action can be instigated.

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11.— Communication

(1) The duty holder shall make appropriate arrangements-

(a) for giving warning of an emergency, by audible and, where necessary, visual alarm systems, to all persons on the installation; and

(b) for the purpose of emergency response, for communication between-

(i) persons on the installation;

(ii) the installation and persons not on it and engaged in activities in connection with it; and

(iii) the installation and persons beyond it;

and shall ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the arrangements are capable of remaining effective in an emergency.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), the duty holder shall ensure that-

(a) an illuminated sign provided pursuant to paragraph (1)(a) is-

(i) in the case of a warning of toxic gas, a red flashing sign; and

(ii) in all other cases, a yellow flashing sign; and

(b) an acoustic signal provided pursuant to paragraph (1)(a) is-

(i) in the case of a warning to prepare for evacuation, a continuous signal of variable frequency;

(ii) in the case of a warning of toxic gas, a continuous signal of a constant frequency; and

(iii) in all other cases, an intermittent signal of a constant frequency.

(3) Where an illuminated sign or acoustic signal is in lawful use immediately before the date of coming into force of these Regulations, but it does not meet the requirements of paragraph (2), it shall be sufficient compliance with that paragraph if a change to a sign or signal so complying is made before 20th December 1997.

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12. Control of emergencies

The duty holder shall-

(a) take appropriate measures with a view to limiting the extent of an emergency, including such measures to combat fire and explosion; and

(b) shall ensure that-

(i) where appropriate, those measures include provision for the remote operation of plant; and

(ii) so far as is reasonably practicable, any arrangements made and plant provided pursuant to this regulation are capable of remaining effective in an emergency.

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13. Mitigation of fire and explosion

The duty holder shall-

(a) take appropriate measures with a view to protecting persons on the installation during an emergency from the effects of fire and explosion; and

(b) ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, any arrangements made and plant provided pursuant to this regulation are capable of remaining effective in an emergency.

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14.— Muster areas etc.

(1) The duty holder shall make appropriate provision for-

(a) areas for persons to muster safely in an emergency (in these Regulations referred to as "*muster areas*");

(b) safe egress from accommodation and work areas, and safe access to muster areas, temporary refuge, and evacuation and escape points; and

(c) safe evacuation and escape points.

(2) The duty holder shall ensure that the muster areas, egress, access and evacuation and escape points referred to in paragraph (1)-

(a) are kept unobstructed;

(b) are provided with adequate emergency lighting; and

(c) are marked by suitable signs,

and shall take appropriate measures to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the egress and access remain passable in an emergency.

(3) The duty holder shall ensure that-

(a) doors for use in an emergency-

(i) open in the appropriate direction or, if this is not possible, are sliding doors; and

(ii) are not so fastened that they cannot readily be opened by any person who may require to use them in an emergency; and

(b) accommodation areas are provided at each level with at least two means of

egress situated a proper distance apart.

(4) The duty holder shall-

(a) ensure that-

(i) each person on the installation is assigned to a muster area; and

(ii) for each muster area a list of names of persons assigned to it is kept up-to-date and displayed; and

(b) establish procedures-

(i) for mustering at such areas; and

(ii) for accounting for persons.

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15. Arrangements for evacuation

The duty holder shall ensure that such arrangements are made which include, to the extent necessary-

(a) the provision of plant on the installation; and

(b) such arrangements with suitable persons beyond the installation,

as will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safe evacuation of all persons and their being taken to a place of safety, or to a place from which they can be recovered and taken to a place of safety under arrangements made pursuant to [regulation 17](#).

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16. Means of escape

The duty holder shall provide such means as will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safe escape of all persons from the installation in case arrangements for evacuation fail.

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17. Arrangements for recovery and rescue

The duty holder shall ensure that effective arrangements are made, which [shall]¹ include such arrangements with suitable persons beyond the installation, for-

- (a) recovery of persons following their evacuation or escape from the installation; and
- (b) rescue of persons near the installation; and
- (c) taking such persons to a place of safety,

and for the purposes of this regulation arrangements shall be regarded as being effective if they secure a good prospect of those persons being recovered, rescued, and taken to a place of safety.

Notes

¹ . Word inserted by Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 2005/3117 [Sch.9 para.3\(c\)](#) (April 6, 2006)

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18.— Suitability of personal protective equipment for use in an emergency

(1) In relation to personal protective equipment which protects a person in an emergency against risks to his health and safety-

(a) in conditions of fire, heat, smoke, fumes or toxic gas; or

(b) in the event of his immersion in the sea,

the duty holder shall, for the purposes of the [Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992](#), be treated as the only employer of all persons on the installation, and such persons shall be treated as only employed by him.

(2) The duty holder shall ensure that there is prepared and operated a written scheme for the systematic examination and, where appropriate, testing, by a competent person, of the equipment referred to in paragraph (1) and for recording the results thereof.

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19.— Suitability and condition of plant

(1) The duty holder shall ensure that all plant on the installation provided in compliance with these Regulations (other than aircraft, or equipment to which [regulation 18](#) applies)-

(a) is so constructed or adapted as to be suitable for the purpose for which it is used or provided; and

(b) is maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.

[...] ¹

Notes

¹ . Revoked by Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 2005/3117 [Sch.9 para.3\(d\)](#) (April 6, 2006)

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20. Life-saving appliances

The duty holder shall ensure that survival craft, life-rafts, life-buoys, life-jackets and plant for like purposes-

- (a) are of such colour as will make them conspicuous when in use;
- (b) are (where applicable) suitably equipped; and
- (c) are kept available for immediate use in sufficient numbers.

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21. Information regarding plant

The duty holder shall ensure that information, giving the location of-

- (a) areas in which there is a risk of a flammable or explosive atmosphere occurring;
- (b) non-automatic plant for fighting fire; and
- (c) plant to which [regulations 18\(1\)](#) and [20](#) apply (other than plant issued to particular persons),

is available to all persons on the installation.

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[22A.— Inventory of equipment etc.

(1) This regulation applies only in relation to external waters.

(2) The duty holder must prepare an inventory of available equipment, its ownership, location, transport to and mode of deployment at the installation and any person relevant to the performance of the duties in these Regulations (except the duties in [regulations 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19 and 20](#)).

(3) The inventory prepared under paragraph (2) must identify measures in place to ensure equipment and procedures are maintained in operable condition.

(4) The duty holder must ensure all equipment on the installation provided in compliance with paragraph (1) is made available at all times and made available as necessary to Maritime and Coastguard Agency ².

] ¹

Notes

¹. Added by Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015/398 [Sch.13\(1\) para.23](#) (July 19, 2015: insertion has effect subject to transitional provisions and savings specified in SI 2015/398 Sch.14)

². The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is an executive agency of the Department for Transport.

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[22B.— Initiation and direction of emergency response and liaison with external response authority

(1) This regulation applies only in relation to external waters.

(2) The duty holder must authorise one or more persons—

(a) to initiate an emergency response;

(b) to direct an emergency response; and

(c) to liaise with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

] ¹

Notes

- ¹ . Added by Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015/398 [Sch.13\(1\) para.23](#)
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[22C.— Arrangements for early warning of major accidents

(1) This regulation applies only in relation to external waters.

(2) The duty holder must make arrangements—

(a) for providing early warning of a major accident to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency; and

(b) for providing more detailed information about such an accident as soon as it becomes available,

but nothing in this paragraph is to be taken as imposing a requirement which is imposed by [regulation 4\(3\)\(c\)](#) and [paragraph 2\(k\) of Schedule 2](#) to the [Merchant Shipping \(Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention\) Regulations 1998](#) (arrangements for early warning of major environmental incidents).

] ¹

Notes

- [1.](#) Added by Offshore Installations (Offshore Safety Directive) (Safety Case etc.) Regulations 2015/398 [Sch.13\(1\) para.23](#) (July 19, 2015: insertion has effect subject to transitional provisions and savings specified in SI 2015/398 Sch.14)

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