

Minerals Management Service, Interior

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§ 250.132 What must I do when MMS conducts an inspection?

(a) When MMS conducts an inspection, you must provide:

(1) Access to all platforms, artificial islands, and other installations on your leases or associated with your lease, right-of-use and easement, or right-of-way; and

(2) Helicopter landing sites and refueling facilities for any helicopters we use to regulate offshore operations.

(b) You must make the following available for us to inspect:

(1) The area covered under a lease, right-of-use and easement, right-of-way, or permit;

(2) All improvements, structures, and fixtures on these areas; and

(3) All records of design, construction, operation, maintenance, repairs, or investigations on or related to the area.

§ 250.133 Will MMS reimburse me for my expenses related to inspections?

Upon request, MMS will reimburse you for food, quarters, and transportation that you provide for MMS representatives while they inspect lease facilities and operations. You must send us your reimbursement request within 90 days of the inspection.

DISQUALIFICATION

§ 250.135 What will MMS do if my operating performance is unacceptable?

If your operating performance is unacceptable, MMS may disapprove or revoke your designation as operator on a single facility or multiple facilities. We will give you adequate notice and opportunity for a review by MMS officials before imposing a disqualification.

§ 250.136 How will MMS determine if my operating performance is unacceptable?

In determining if your operating performance is unacceptable, MMS will consider, individually or collectively:

- (a) Accidents and their nature;
- (b) Pollution events, environmental damages and their nature;
- (c) Incidents of noncompliance;
- (d) Civil penalties;
- (e) Failure to adhere to OCS lease obligations; or
- (f) Any other relevant factors.

SPECIAL TYPES OF APPROVALS

§ 250.140 When will I receive an oral approval?

When you apply for MMS approval of any activity, we normally give you a written decision. The following table shows circumstances under which we may give an oral approval.

When you	We may	And
(a) Request approval orally.	Give you an oral approval.	You must then confirm the oral request by sending us a written request within 72 hours.
(b) Request approval in writing.	Give you an oral approval if quick action is needed.	We will send you a written approval afterward. It will include any conditions that we place on the oral approval.
(c) Request approval orally for gas flaring.	Give you an oral approval.	You don't have to follow up with a written request unless the Regional Supervisor requires it. When you stop the approved flaring, you must promptly send a letter summarizing the location, dates and hours, and volumes of liquid hydrocarbons produced and gas flared by the approved flaring. (See 30 CFR 250, subpart K.)

§ 250.141 May I ever use alternate procedures or equipment?

You may use alternate procedures or equipment after receiving approval as described in this section.

(a) Any alternate procedures or equipment that you propose to use must provide a level of safety and environmental protection that equals or surpasses current MMS requirements.

(b) You must receive the District or Regional Supervisor's written approval before you can use alternate procedures or equipment.

(c) To receive approval, you must either submit information or give an oral presentation to the appropriate Supervisor. Your presentation must describe the site-specific application(s), performance characteristics, and safety

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features of the proposed procedure or equipment.

§ 250.142 How do I receive approval for departures?

We may approve departures to the operating requirements. You may apply for a departure by writing to the District or Regional Supervisor.

[65 FR 6536, Feb. 10, 2000]

§ 250.143 How do I designate an operator?

(a) You must provide the Regional Supervisor an executed Designation of Operator form unless you are the only lessee and are the only person conducting lease operations. When there is more than one lessee, each lessee must submit the Designation of Operator form and the Regional Supervisor must approve the designation before the designated operator may begin operations on the leasehold.

(b) This designation is authority for the designated operator to act on your behalf and to fulfill your obligations under the Act, the lease, and the regulations in this part.

(c) You, or your designated operator, must immediately provide the Regional Supervisor a written notification of any change of address.

§ 250.144 How do I designate a new operator when a designation of operator terminates?

(a) When a Designation of Operator terminates, the Regional Supervisor must approve a new designated operator before you may continue operations. Each lessee must submit a new executed Designation of Operator form.

(b) If your Designation of Operator is terminated, or a controversy develops between you and your designated operator, you and your designated operator must protect the lessor's interests.

§ 250.145 How do I designate an agent or a local agent?

(a) You or your designated operator may designate for the Regional Supervisor's approval, or the Regional Director may require you to designate an agent empowered to fulfill your obligations under the Act, the lease, or the regulations in this part.

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(b) You or your designated operator may designate for the Regional Supervisor's approval a local agent empowered to receive notices and submit requests, applications, notices, or supplemental information.

§ 250.146 Who is responsible for fulfilling leasehold obligations?

(a) When you are not the sole lessee, you and your co-lessee(s) are jointly and severally responsible for fulfilling your obligations under the provisions of 30 CFR parts 250 through 282, unless otherwise provided in these regulations.

(b) If your designated operator fails to fulfill any of your obligations under 30 CFR parts 250 through 282, the Regional Supervisor may require you or any or all of your co-lessees to fulfill those obligations or other operational obligations under the Act, the lease, or the regulations.

(c) Whenever the regulations in 30 CFR parts 250 through 282 require the lessee to meet a requirement or perform an action, the lessee, operator (if one has been designated), and the person actually performing the activity to which the requirement applies are jointly and severally responsible for complying with the regulation.

NAMING AND IDENTIFYING FACILITIES AND WELLS (DOES NOT INCLUDE MODUS)

§ 250.150 How do I name facilities and wells in the Gulf of Mexico Region?

(a) Assign each facility a letter designation except for those types of facilities identified in paragraph (c)(1) of this section. For example, A, B, CA, or CB.

(1) After a facility is installed, rename each predrilled well that was assigned only a number and was suspended temporarily at the mudline or at the surface. Use a letter and number designation. The letter used must be the same as that of the production facility, and the number used must correspond to the order in which the well was completed, not necessarily the number assigned when it was drilled. For example, the first well completed for production on Facility A would be renamed Well A-1, the second would be Well A-2, and so on; and