

§ 250.500

(14) *Sealed voids.* You must take precautions to eliminate sealed spaces in piping designs (e.g., slip-on flanges, reinforcing pads) which can be invaded by atomic hydrogen when H₂S is present.

[62 FR 3795, Jan. 27, 1997. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 29479, 29485, May 29, 1998; 65 FR 15864, Mar. 24, 2000]

Subpart E--Oil and Gas Well-Completion Operations

§ 250.500 General requirements.

Well-completion operations shall be conducted in a manner to protect against harm or damage to life (including fish and other aquatic life), property, natural resources of the OCS including any mineral deposits (in areas leased and not leased), the national security or defense, or the marine, coastal, or human environment.

§ 250.501 Definition.

When used in this subpart, the following term shall have the meaning given below:

Well-completion operations means the work conducted to establish the production of a well after the production-casing string has been set, cemented, and pressure-tested.

§ 250.502 Equipment movement.

The movement of well-completion rigs and related equipment on and off a platform or from well to well on the same platform, including rigging up and rigging down, shall be conducted in a safe manner. All wells in the same well-bay which are capable of producing hydrocarbons shall be shut in below the surface with a pump-through-type tubing plug and at the surface with a closed master valve prior to moving well-completion rigs and related equipment, unless otherwise approved by the District Supervisor. A closed surface-controlled subsurface safety valve of the pump-through type may be used in lieu of the pump-through-type tubing plug, provided that the surface control has been locked out of operation. The well from which the rig or related equipment is to be moved shall also be equipped with a back-pressure valve prior to remov-

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ing the blowout preventer (BOP) system and installing the tree.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988, as amended at 55 FR 47752, Nov. 15, 1990. Redesignated at 63 FR 29479, May 29, 1998]

§ 250.503 Emergency shutdown system.

When well-completion operations are conducted on a platform where there are other hydrocarbon-producing wells or other hydrocarbon flow, an emergency shutdown system (ESD) manually controlled station shall be installed near the driller's console or well-servicing unit operator's work station.

§ 250.504 Hydrogen sulfide.

When a well-completion operation is conducted in zones known to contain hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) or in zones where the presence of H₂S is unknown (as defined in §250.417 of this part), the lessee shall take appropriate precautions to protect life and property on the platform or completion unit, including, but not limited to operations such as blowing the well down, dismantling wellhead equipment and flow lines, circulating the well, swabbing, and pulling tubing, pumps, and packers. The lessee shall comply with the requirements in §250.417 of this part as well as the appropriate requirements of this subpart.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 29479, 29485, May 29, 1998]

§ 250.505 Subsea completions.

No subsea well completion shall be commenced until the lessee obtains written approval from the District Supervisor in accordance with §250.513 of this part. That approval shall be based upon a case-by-case determination that the proposed equipment and procedures will adequately control the well and permit safe production operations.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988. Redesignated and amended at 63 FR 29479, 29485, May 29, 1998]

§ 250.506 Crew instructions.

Prior to engaging in well-completion operations, crew members shall be instructed in the safety requirements of the operations to be performed, and possible hazards to be encountered, and

general safety considerations to protect personnel, equipment, and the environment. Date and time of safety meetings shall be recorded and available at the facility for review by MMS representatives.

§§ 250.507-250.508 [Reserved]

§ 250.509 Well-completion structures on fixed platforms.

Derricks, masts, substructures, and related equipment shall be selected, designed, installed, used, and maintained so as to be adequate for the potential loads and conditions of loading that may be encountered during the proposed operations. Prior to moving a well-completion rig or equipment onto a platform, the lessee shall determine the structural capability of the platform to safely support the equipment and proposed operations, taking into consideration the corrosion protection, age of platform, and previous stresses to the platform.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 50616, Dec. 8, 1989. Redesignated at 63 FR 29479, May 29, 1998]

§ 250.510 Diesel engine air intakes.

No later than May 31, 1989, diesel engine air intakes shall be equipped with a device to shut down the diesel engine in the event of runaway. Diesel engines which are continuously attended shall be equipped with either remote operated manual or automatic-shutdown devices. Diesel engines which are not continuously attended shall be equipped with automatic-shutdown devices.

§ 250.511 Traveling-block safety device.

After May 31, 1989, all units being used for well-completion operations which have both a traveling block and a crown block shall be equipped with a safety device which is designed to prevent the traveling block from striking the crown block. The device shall be checked for proper operation weekly and after each drill-line slipping operation. The results of the operational check shall be entered in the operations log.

§ 250.512 Field well-completion rules.

When geological and engineering information available in a field enables the District Supervisor to determine specific operating requirements, field well-completion rules may be established on the District Supervisor's initiative or in response to a request from a lessee. Such rules may modify the specific requirements of this subpart. After field well-completion rules have been established, well-completion operations in the field shall be conducted in accordance with such rules and other requirements of this subpart. Field well-completion rules may be amended or canceled for cause at any time upon the initiative of the District Supervisor or upon the request of a lessee.

§ 250.513 Approval and reporting of well-completion operations.

(a) No well-completion operation shall begin until the lessee receives written approval from the District Supervisor. If completion is planned and the data are available at the time the Application for Permit to Drill, Form MMS-123 (see § 250.414 of this part), is submitted, approval for a well completion may be requested on that form. If the completion has not been approved or if the completion objective or plans have significantly changed, approval for such operations shall be requested on Form MMS-124, Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells.

(b) The following information shall be submitted with Form MMS-124 (or with Form MMS-123):

(1) A brief description of the well-completion procedures to be followed, a statement of the expected surface pressure, and type and weight of completion fluids;

(2) A schematic drawing of the well showing the proposed producing zone(s) and the subsurface well-completion equipment to be used;

(3) For multiple completions, a partial electric log showing the zones proposed for completion, if logs have not been previously submitted; and

(4) When the well-completion is in a zone known to contain H₂S or a zone where the presence of H₂S is unknown, information pursuant to § 250.417 of this part.