

OCES

OPERATORS' CO-OPERATIVE EMERGENCY SERVICES

JOINT DECLARATION and EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CODE

In respect of Mutual Aid in the event of an offshore
Emergency Situation

Revised November 2011
(Original Edition September 1979)

In the case of an operator requiring assistance from another in an emergency situation, as provided for by OCES, then that assistance should be requested directly to a potential provider. Contact details can be found on each operator's web pages, see links provided through the National Oil Industry Associations' web pages, as noted on the last page of this document. The principles under which this assistance is requested and provided are laid out in the attached Emergency Assistance Code. The role of the National Oil Industry Associations is only a secondary one - in maintaining and supporting, to the extent that they can, these principles and provisions.

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Chapter 1. Introduction

Background

Under the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea, Offshore Installation Managers, in common with captains of vessels and aircraft, have a duty to render assistance to any person or persons in distress in response to a MAYDAY or SOS call. Member companies of the National Oil Industry Associations have always accepted this responsibility and have rendered such assistance to others, including other Members, when such situations have occurred. This declaration does not specifically deal with distress situations.

Within the offshore petroleum industry there exists the possibility of emergency situations occurring in which urgent action needs to be taken to prevent further damage to an offshore installation or other facility or to the environment. Such a situation may or may not be preceded by circumstances in which persons are in distress. To take account of such situations, the National Oil Industry Associations have agreed to pursue a principle of mutual aid between members.

In 1979, the National Oil Industry Associations of the UK, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands issued a Joint Declaration committing the Associations to the principle of mutual aid in an emergency situation, regardless of national boundaries, and established the Emergency Assistance Code to govern the provision of this assistance. Subsequently, the National Oil Industry Associations of Ireland (IOOA) and Germany (WEG) endorsed the Joint Declaration. These arrangements were initially named "The sector clubs" but now the arrangement stretches across the North Sea without segmentation.

OCES has been periodically revised, the last major review was in 1998. OCES has now undergone a detailed scrutiny in light of the Macondo, Gulf of Mexico incident in April 2010. This 2011 OCES declaration terminates and supersedes all previous OCES declarations.

Emergency Preparedness

Under each country's national legislation, the operator of an offshore installation is required to have in place effective contingency plans for emergency situations. The offshore oil and gas industry also believes in the sharing of resources in an emergency situation, when those with the ability to assist, provides the best means of containing an emergency.

In order to promote and facilitate this sharing of resources, the National Oil Industry Associations have a declared policy of mutual support between members, OCES, and have put in place the necessary arrangements to ensure that support can be provided effectively.

In summary, an operator makes a request to another for support during an emergency situation and the provider releases resources to the requester if this is possible. The requester pays for these resources.

OCES (Operators' Cooperative Emergency Services) is an international arrangement between national oil and gas trade associations that allows operators to call upon each other for support in emergency situations, regardless of national boundaries. Those associations also provide facilitative and administrative support to these arrangements.

The OCES applies to all operators of key facilities and services such as drilling rigs, drilling equipment and services, helicopters and support vessels (fire-fighting, lifting, diving, supply).

The Emergency Assistance Code lays down the operational principles under which emergency assistance may be requested and provided. It also sets out the management and administrative procedures to follow. This does not take the form of a binding agreement, but incorporates principles for members to follow, as a code of practice.

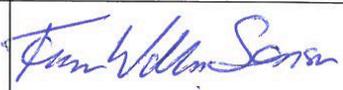
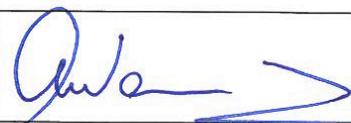
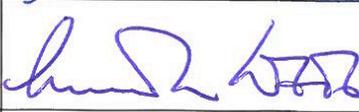
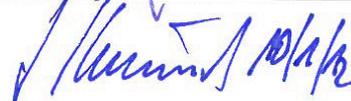
Associations that are parties to OCES

There are six participating countries; the UK, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany and Ireland which, through their National Oil Industry Associations are parties to this Joint Declaration on behalf of their member operator companies. The contact details are noted at the end of this document in Chapter 4.

Chapter 2. Joint Declaration in Respect of Mutual Aid in the Event of an Offshore Emergency Situation

The National Oil Industry Associations, acting on behalf of their member operating companies, agree that the fundamental principles agreed in 1979 with respect to providing mutual aid in the event of an offshore emergency situation shall continue to apply to both production and exploration/appraisal activities, without regard to national boundaries, and commit each member operating company to:

- Provide each offshore installation with its own capability to deal with an emergency (as would be required by each nation’s relevant legislation)
- When requested to do so, provide mutual aid to another operator experiencing an emergency, provided that the safety of its own operations is not jeopardised
- Release resources such as rigs, vessels, aircraft and other facilities to provide mutual aid
- Co-operate in the establishment and maintenance of arrangements to enable mutual aid to be provided without delay
- Apply the principles and arrangements set out in the Emergency Assistance Code that follows.

Trade Association	Name	Position	Authorised Signature / Date
IIOA	Fergus Cahill	Chairman	 24/01/12
Danish Operators	Franz Willum Sørensen	Chairman	
NOGEPA	Bram van Mannekes	Secretary General	
Oil & Gas UK	Malcolm Webb	Chief Executive	
OLF	Gro Brækken	Secretary General	 20 December 2011
WEG	Josef Schmid	Secretary General	

Chapter 3. OCES, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CODE

2011 EDITION (ORIGINAL EDITION 1983)

Introduction

The purpose of this Emergency Assistance Code (the Code) is to provide a set of principles that facilitate the providing by one Member to another of Emergency Assistance in an Emergency Situation, in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the National Oil Industry Associations (Oil & Gas UK, OLF, Danish Operators, WEG, NOGEPa and IOOA). This Code, as may be amended from time to time, shall supersede all previous versions of OCES.

The Declaration and Code are not intended to be legally binding or conflict with or detract from the statutory rights and duties of Operating Companies, Offshore Installation Managers, Captains of vessels and aircraft or any other person having statutory rights or duties.

The Code is embodied in five Sections:-

- (1) General
- (2) Emergency Situation
- (3) Provisions for the Giving and Receiving of Assistance in Emergency Situations
- (4) Confidentiality
- (5) Definitions.

Section 1

GENERAL

To facilitate the timely provision of Emergency Assistance, this Emergency Assistance Code defines the standing principles and arrangements under which Members may request and provide Emergency Assistance, in accordance with the Joint Declaration.

Section 2

EMERGENCY SITUATION

Emergency Assistance will be provided by Members in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of this Code when requested by another Member with an Emergency Situation.

Section 3

PROVISIONS FOR THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The provisions that are set out in this section provide for the giving and receiving of Emergency Assistance in an Emergency Situation.

A Member provides Emergency Assistance under these provisions only until the Member with the Emergency Situation mobilises other resources to contain the Emergency Situation as defined in Section 5 of this Code for an Emergency Situation.

3.1 General Provisions

- 3.1.1 A Member shall only request Emergency Assistance when there is no suitable alternative available from its own resources or readily available from the contractor market.
- 3.1.2 A Member is not required to put people or property in danger in order to provide Emergency Assistance.
- 3.1.3 A Member accepts that his own operational programmes may be disrupted or delayed by making available Emergency Assistance.
- 3.1.4 No Member is required to provide Emergency Assistance in circumstances that could give rise to an Emergency Situation in relation to its own operations.
- 3.1.5 A Member may recall Emergency Assistance if faced with an Emergency Situation at its own installation.
- 3.1.6 Members should consider the making of provision for potential emergency assistance in their contractual arrangements.

3.2 Communications

- 3.2.1 Each Member shall establish within its offices a single initial point of contact capable of reacting to a call for Emergency Assistance on a continuous 24 hours basis and shall ensure that authorisation for the provision of Assistance can be readily given. Main office contact details can be found on the relevant National Oil Industry Association or operating company websites (the last page of this document), which will provide a conduit through to operational contacts.
- 3.2.2 Requests for Emergency Assistance shall be made by telephone and confirmed without delay by fax or e-mail. Requests may be made and communications maintained between Requester's and Provider's initial points of contact as mentioned above or via their emergency control centres.

3.3 Particular Provisions as to Emergency Assistance

The following particular provisions apply when Emergency Assistance is requested by one Member from another under the terms of this Code.

- 3.3.1 A Member will, subject to Clause 3.1, release the Emergency Assistance as soon as possible after receiving a request. It is understood that, when providing Emergency Assistance, a Member will need to comply with pre-existing commitments such as operating agreements or procurement contracts.
- 3.3.2 The position regarding terms and conditions where Emergency Assistance is requested under this Code is as follows:
- a) In requesting Emergency Assistance, the Requester shall agree to accept the terms and conditions offered by the Provider in accordance with this Code.
 - b) Where relevant, the Requester will enter also into a separate procurement contract with the contractor which owns or operates the vessel or unit in question.
- 3.3.3 The Requester shall undertake not to retain Emergency Assistance beyond the period during which its use is essential and shall keep Provider informed of progress, and of the probable time when the Emergency Assistance will be returned.
- 3.3.4 Without prejudice to the terms and conditions agreed to by the Requester under Clause 3.3.2, the Requester shall pay promptly under receipt of the Provider's invoices all charges incurred by the Provider as a consequence of making Emergency Assistance available, the general intent being that the Provider shall be in no worse or better position than it would have been had it not made available the Emergency Assistance.

- 3.3.5 As between the Requester and the Provider but without prejudice to Third Party salvage claims, there shall be no claims for salvage.
- 3.3.6 Where relevant, contractors shall invoice the Requester directly for their charges.
- 3.3.7 Any notice which requires to be served between the Requester and the Provider shall be served by fax or email to the recipient's representative, as detailed in Clause 3.2.1.
- 3.3.8 The provisions of Clause 3.3.4 take effect from the time that the Provider releases Emergency Assistance in accordance with Clause 3.3.1 and shall continue until the vessel or unit returns to the Provider. Fax or email from the Provider will confirm either the time of return of the Emergency Assistance to the Provider's location or the time of completion of re-mobilisation, whichever is applicable.

Section 4

CONFIDENTIALITY

Under this Emergency Assistance Code, Members shall keep confidential all information which they obtain through the giving or receiving of Emergency Assistance and to which they would not otherwise have access.

Section 5

DEFINITIONS

In this Code the following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them:

Assistance

Vessels, rigs, aircraft, equipment and materials owned, contracted by or otherwise available to a Member which can reasonably be expected to be useful in assisting in an Emergency Situation, together with necessary operating personnel

Contractor

Any individual, firm, limited company or partnership which provides under contract to a Member any personnel, vessel, rig, aircraft, equipment, materials or other service

Emergency Assistance

Means Assistance given by a Member under section 3 of this Code upon a request from another Member to assist in dealing with an Emergency Situation

Emergency Situation

A situation in which people, property or the environment are at

risk of (or have already suffered) serious harm due to an event on or near a fixed or mobile offshore installation or pipeline owned or used by any Member such as a leak, loss of well control, blowout, explosion or fire

IOOA

Irish Offshore Operators' Association

Member

An Operating Company that is a Member of any of the National Oil Industry Associations

National Oil Industry Associations (NOIA)

Danish Operators, IOOA, O&GUK, OLF, NOGEPa and WEG collectively

NOGEPa

Netherlands Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Association

Offshore Installation Manager, OIM

The person appointed by the Operating Company to have day-to-day charge of the offshore installation.

OLF

Norwegian Oil Industry Association

Operating Company

A Company that is the licensed operator of an offshore concession area or installation

Property

Any item which either belongs to the respective Provider, Requester, Contractor or Third Party or any item for which they have respectively assumed liability under another contract

Provider

A Member providing Emergency Assistance

Requester

A Member requesting Emergency Assistance

Third Party

A party other than Provider or Requester

O&GUK

Oil & Gas UK

WEG

Wirtschaftsverband Erdoel-und Erdgasgewinnung eV.

Chapter 4. The Administration of OCES

Executive Committee

The OCES Executive Committee provides for overall governance of the OCES arrangements.

The OCES Executive Committee shall comprise of single representatives appointed by each National Oil Industry Association, as outlined below, and updated from time-to-time.

An OCES Executive Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. This position shall rotate, with the appointed Chairperson serving for a maximum period of two years.

The names and contact details of the current members of the Executive Committee are given on each National Oil Industry Associations' website.

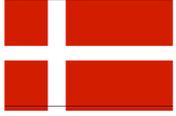
The Chairperson shall act as custodian of this document during the period of tenure – ensuring the lists of National Oil Industry Association representatives and their operator Members are kept current (see below).

The Executive Committee may propose policy changes for ratification by all of the National Oil Industry Associations. (Meetings usually occur once or twice a year).

In the event of specialist or other assistance being required, the Executive Committee may co-opt as temporary members others from the NOIAs or Member companies and establish work groups to address specific issues.

The Executive Committee shall undertake exercises from time-to-time in order to test the effectiveness of OCES.

National Oil Industry Associations' Contact Details for the administration of this Declaration.



Denmark:

Danish Operators www.danishoperators.com
(representation by Maersk Oil)
Telephone: +45 7911 1280 and +45 75180366
E-mail: docc@maerskoil.dk copying doccpost@maerskoil.dk
Website: www.danishoperators.com



Germany:

Wirtschaftsverband Erdoel-und Erdgasgewinnung eV (WEG)
www.erdoel-erdgas.de/
Telephone: +49 511 121 72 0
E-mail: info@erdoel-erdgas.de
Website: www.erdoel-erdgas.de



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E-mail: fergusbcahill@eircom.net copying info@iooa.ie
Website: www.iooa.ie



Netherlands:

Netherlands Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Association (NOGEPa)
www.nogepa.nl/language/en-GB/Home.aspx
Telephone: +31 7034 78871
Mobile: +31 617240493
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Website: nogepa.nl



Norway:

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Website: www.oilandgasuk.co.uk