
Falkland Islands Government
Department of Mineral Resources



Petroleum Operations Notice 11

Loss or dumping of materials at sea from offshore oil and gas installations

Revised May 2016

Introduction

Materials lost or dumped at sea can constitute a significant hazard to other sea users and the marine environment. To ensure other sea users are aware of major hazards resulting from such incidences, all loss or unregulated dumping of solid materials at sea from offshore oil and gas installations must be reported through a PON 11 form (liquid materials released should be reported using a PON 8).

What should be reported?

Although small objects dropped into the sea are unlikely to affect the environment and other sea users, it is impossible to set a threshold under which reporting is unnecessary. Instead, operators are advised to report any lost/dropped object if they're unsure of the hazard it might cause.

Please consider the following when deciding whether or not to report materials lost or dumped at sea:

- Material deposited under conditions of force majeure, excluding material legally deposited in accordance with the requirements of – or exemptions from – relevant legislation, must be reported to the Falkland Islands Government (FIG).
- Synthetic materials, which are impervious to rot, can foul the propellers of vessels and present a very real hazard to divers and submersibles. They also constitute a significant hazard to marine life.
- Plastic sheeting, bags and containers can block the cooling water intakes of vessels of all sizes as well as constitute a significant hazard to marine life.
- Materials such as oil drums, lengths of wire and other heavy objects can represent a hazard to vessels and/or interfere with navigation. They can also snag and damage fishing nets, resulting in lost fishing time or in extreme cases, threaten the safety of the fishing vessel.
- Materials lost or discarded at sea may be moved considerable distances by currents and tides, and may eventually have a significant impact not anticipated at the deposit location.
- **No material should be intentionally discarded at sea, except material that is legally deposited in accordance with the requirements of relevant legislation or deposited under conditions of force majeure. The latter is only relevant if the dumping is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel, installation or crew.**
- **Discards of certain materials (e.g. drilling mud and cement) that have been permitted under an EIA or other statutory approvals shall be limited to those discarded as part of the operations described in the relevant application. Disposal of waste drilling materials will not be permitted other than in very exceptional circumstances, regardless of whether those materials are PLONOR listed or whether their operational discharge has been permitted. All waste material should be managed in accordance with an approved Waste Management Plan.**
- If lost or discarded material is resting and likely to remain within a permanent 500m safety zone, it may be possible to defer removal until final decommissioning. If the material rests outside of a 500m safety zone or within a short-term safety zone (such as a safety zone attached to a drilling installation), every reasonable attempt must be made to remove or recover the material.

Submitting the PON 11 form

The form must be submitted to FIG Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) as soon as possible and no later than six hours after the event takes place. If all the information is not available within six hours, the PON 11 form can be updated at a later time.

Please email the form if possible, but it can be faxed if electronic communication is not functioning. Contact details are available with the form below.

Post submission

Once the PON 11 form has been received by the relevant authorities, the submitter may be contacted if further information is required.

FIG Notification pro-forma for reporting the loss or dumping of synthetic materials and other refuse at sea

Forward to, within 6 hours of loss or dumping incident Falkland Islands Government Department of Mineral Resources: e-mail: reporting@mineralresources.gov.fk or fax +500 27321

Identity of Reporter		Date of Report:	
Full Name:		Position/Title:	
Contact Telephone No:		Contact E-Mail:	
Operator/Organisation/Company Responsible for Incident:			
Name of Installation or Vessel responsible for the loss or dumping of the material			
Location/position of the installation/vessel at the time of the loss or dumping:		Block number	
Latitude:		Longitude:	
Date of Loss/Dumping:		Time (24hours):	
Weather conditions at time of loss/dumping:			
Wind Direction (0-360 degree):		Wind Speed (knots):	
Beaufort Scale:		Wave Height (metres):	
Materials lost or dumped – provide as full a description as possible –i.e. clearly highlight if synthetic materials involved, are there wires involved, dimensions of materials etc. – If photos available please attach separately. Specify the purpose of the function of the materials			
If the materials are resting on the seabed are they lying wholly within the 500M Safety Zone? Yes or No:			
Are the materials likely to float on sea surface or in water column? Yes or No:			
If the answer to question above is YES - are materials likely to reach shore or cross a median line? - please specify			

Reasons for the loss or dumping (if Force Majeure is invoked please clearly state this):-

Are there plans to recover the materials? – if yes, specify details including anticipated timescales for the recovery operation. If there are no plans to recover the materials the reason for this must be clearly specified.

What are considered to be the risks and dangers to other users of the sea as a result of the lost or dumped materials not being recovered?

Any further information that may be useful: