



Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board

6th Floor TD Centre, 1791 Barrington Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3K9

Tel (902)422-5588 Fax (902)422-1799 www.cnsopb.ns.ca

Safety Directive

Deviation from Guidance Drilling and Production Guidelines

File 20,100.15

6 March 2013

The Drilling and Production Guidelines provide assistance to interested parties in understanding the requirements of the Drilling and Production Regulations and how those requirements can be met. In certain sections, the Guidelines identify a way towards achieving regulatory compliance. However, in all cases, the onus remains on the Operator to be able to demonstrate to the Board that their chosen approach meets regulatory requirements. It follows that any material deviation from guidance must be adequately documented by the Operator and may be subject to Board review.

Operators are therefore directed to establish the following procedures to meet those objectives;

Within 90 days from the issuance of this Safety Directive, Operators should have established procedures to:

- ***Notify the Board, in a manner acceptable to the Board, prior to the implementation of any deviation to guidance, for those sections of the Guidelines noted on the attached Appendix A***

Within 180 days from the issuance of this Safety Directive, Operators should have established procedures to:

- ***Internally identify all material deviations (alternate methods) from the Guidelines.***
- ***Document how the deviation complies with the requirements of the Drilling and Production Regulations, and maintain a central database of all material deviations from guidance.***
- ***Make this referenced database available to the Board on request.***

If you have any questions regarding this Directive, please contact:

Keith Landra, M.Sc.(A), P.Eng., CRSP
Chief Safety Officer
Phone: (902)496-0723
Fax: (902)422-1799
klandra@cnsopb.ns.ca

Appendix A

Sections of Guidance Subject to Prior Board Notification

Drilling and Production Guidelines

- Section 28 – Drilling Fluid System
- Section 29 – Marine Riser
- Section 30 – Drilling Practices
- Section 32 – Directional and Deviation Surveys
- Section 34 – Formation Flow and Well Testing Equipment
- Sections 36,37 – Well Control
- Sections 39, 40, 41 – Casing and Cementing
- Section 42 – Waiting on Cement Time
- Section 43 – Casing Pressure Testing
- Section 44 – Production Tubing
- Section 47 – Subsurface Safety Valve
- Section 48 – Wellhead and Christmas Tree equipment
- Sections 56, 57, 58, 59 – Suspension or Abandonment