§ 250.449 What additional BOP testing requirements must I meet?
You must meet the following additional BOP testing requirements:

(a) Use water to test a surface BOP system;
(b) Stump test a subsea BOP system before installation. You must use drilling fluids to conduct subsequent tests of a subsea BOP system;
(c) Alternate tests between control stations and pods;
(d) Pressure test the blind or blind-shear ram BOP during stump tests and at all casing points;
(e) The interval between any blind or blind-shear ram BOP pressure tests may not exceed 30 days;
(f) Pressure test variable bore-pipe ram BOPs against the largest and smallest sizes of pipe in use, excluding drill collars and bottom-hole tools;
(g) Pressure test affected BOP components following the disconnection or repair of any well-pressure containment seal in the wellhead or BOP stack assembly;
(h) Function test annular and ram BOPs every 7 days between pressure tests; and
(i) Actuate safety valves assembled with proper casing connections before running casing.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.450 What are the recordkeeping requirements for BOP tests?
You must record the time, date, and results of all pressure tests, actuations, and inspections of the BOP system, system components, and marine riser in the driller’s report. In addition, you must:

(a) Record BOP test pressures on pressure charts;
(b) Require your onsite representative to sign and date BOP test charts and reports as correct;
(c) Document the sequential order of BOP and auxiliary equipment testing and the pressure and duration of each test. For subsea BOP systems, you must also record the closing times for annular and ram BOPs. You may reference a BOP test plan if it is available at the facility;
(d) Identify the control station and pod used during the test;
(e) Identify any problems or irregularities observed during BOP system testing and record actions taken to remedy the problems or irregularities; and
(f) Retain all records, including pressure charts, driller’s report, and referenced documents pertaining to BOP tests, actuations, and inspections at the facility for the duration of drilling.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.451 What must I do in certain situations involving BOP equipment or systems?
The table in this section describes actions that lessees must take when certain situations occur with BOP systems during drilling activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you encounter the following situation:</th>
<th>Then you must . . .</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) BOP equipment does not hold the required pressure during a test.</td>
<td>Correct the problem and retest the affected equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Need to repair or replace a surface or subsea BOP system.</td>
<td>First place the well in a safe, controlled condition (e.g., before drilling out a casing shoe or after setting a cement plug, bridge plug, or a packer). Record the reason for postponing the test in the driller’s report and conduct the required BOP test on the first trip out of the hole. Suspend further drilling operations until that station or pod is operable. Install two or more sets of conventional or variable-bore pipe rams in the BOP stack to provide for the following: two sets of rams must be capable of sealing around the larger-size drill string and one set of pipe rams must be capable of sealing around the smaller-size drill string.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Need to postpone a BOP test due to well-control problems such as lost circulation, formation fluid influx, or stuck drill pipe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) BOP control station or pod that does not function properly.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(e) Want to drill with a tapered drill-string.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Install casing rams in a BOP stack.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Want to use an annular BOP with a rated working pressure less than the anticipated surface pressure.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Use a subsea BOP system in an ice-scour area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]
§ 250.455 DRILLING FLUID REQUIREMENTS

§ 250.455 What are the general requirements for a drilling fluid program?

You must design and implement your drilling fluid program to prevent the loss of well control. This program must address drilling fluid safe practices, testing and monitoring equipment, drilling fluid quantities, and drilling fluid-handling areas.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.456 What safe practices must the drilling fluid program follow?

Your drilling fluid program must include the following safe practices:

(a) Before starting out of the hole with drill pipe, you must properly condition the drilling fluid. You must circulate a volume of drilling fluid equal to the annular volume with the drill pipe just off-bottom. You may omit this practice if documentation in the driller’s report shows:

(1) No indication of formation fluid influx before starting to pull the drill pipe from the hole;

(2) The weight of returning drilling fluid is within 0.2 pounds per gallon (1.5 pounds per cubic foot) of the drilling fluid entering the hole; and

(3) Other drilling fluid properties are within the limits established by the program approved in the APD.

(b) Record each time you circulate drilling fluid in the hole in the driller’s report;

(c) When coming out of the hole with drill pipe, you must fill the annulus with drilling fluid before the hydrostatic pressure decreases by 75 psi, or every five stands of drill pipe, whichever gives a lower decrease in hydrostatic pressure. You must calculate the number of stands of drill pipe and drill collars that you may pull before you must fill the hole. Both sets of numbers must be posted near the driller’s station. You must use a mechanical, volumetric, or electronic device to measure the drilling fluid required to fill the hole;

(d) You must run and pull drill pipe and downhole tools at controlled rates so you do not swab or surge the well;

(e) When there is an indication of swabbing or influx of formation fluids, you must take appropriate measures to control the well. You must circulate and condition the well, on or near-bottom, unless well or drilling-fluid conditions prevent running the drill pipe back to the bottom;

(f) You must calculate and post near the driller’s console the maximum pressures that you may safely contain under a shut-in BOP for each casing string. The pressures posted must consider the surface pressure at which the formation at the shoe would break down, the rated working pressure of the BOP stack, and 70 percent of casing burst (or casing test as approved by the District Manager). As a minimum, you must post the following two pressures:

(1) The surface pressure at which the shoe would break down. This calculation must consider the current drilling fluid weight in the hole; and

(2) The lesser of the BOP’s rated working pressure or 70 percent of casing burst pressure (or casing test otherwise approved by the District Manager);

(g) You must install an operable drilling fluid-gas separator and degasser before you begin drilling operations. You must maintain this equipment throughout the drilling of the well;

(h) Before pulling drill-stem test tools from the hole, you must circulate or reverse-circulate the test fluids in the hole. If circulating out test fluids is not feasible, you may bullhead test fluids out of the drill-stem test string and tools with an appropriate kill weight fluid;

(i) When circulating, you must test the drilling fluid at least once each tour, or more frequently if conditions warrant. Your tests must conform to industry-accepted practices and include density, viscosity, and gel strength; hydrogen ion concentration; filtration; and any other tests the District Manager requires for monitoring and maintaining drilling fluid quality, prevention of downhole equipment problems and for kick detection. You must record the results of these tests in the drilling fluid report; and

(j) In areas where permafrost and/or hydrate zones are present or may be