

**Minerals Management Service, Interior**

**§ 250.524**

**§ 250.520 When do I have to perform a casing diagnostic test?**

serving or imposing casing pressure according to the following table:

(a) You must perform a casing diagnostic test within 30 days after first ob-

If you have a * * *	you must perform a casing diagnostic test if * * *
(1) fixed platform well, .....	the casing pressure is greater than 100 psig.
(2) subsea well, .....	the measurable casing pressure is greater than the external hydrostatic pressure plus 100 psig measured at the subsea wellhead.
(3) hybrid well, .....	a riser or the production casing pressure is greater than 100 psig measured at the surface.

(b) You are exempt from performing a diagnostic pressure test for the production casing on a well operating under active gas lift.

eration to manage thermal casing pressure; therefore, you do not need to evaluate these operations as a casing diagnostic test. After 30 days of continuous production, the initial production startup operation is complete and you must perform casing diagnostic testing as required in §§ 250.520 and 250.522.

**§ 250.521 How do I manage the thermal effects caused by initial production on a newly completed or recompleted well?**

A newly completed or recompleted well often has thermal casing pressure during initial startup. Bleeding casing pressure during the startup process is considered a normal and necessary op-

**§ 250.522 When do I have to repeat casing diagnostic testing?**

Casing diagnostic testing must be repeated according to the following table:

When * * *	you must repeat diagnostic testing * * *
(a) your casing pressure request approved term has expired, ...	immediately.
(b) your well, previously on gas lift, has been shut-in or returned to flowing status without gas lift for more than 180 days,	immediately on the production casing (A annulus). The production casing (A annulus) of wells on active gas lift are exempt from diagnostic testing.
(c) your casing pressure request becomes invalid, .....	within 30 days.
(d) a casing or riser has an increase in pressure greater than 200 psig over the previous casing diagnostic test,	within 30 days.
(e) after any corrective action has been taken to remediate undesirable casing pressure, either as a result of a casing pressure request denial or any other action,	within 30 days.
(f) your fixed platform well production casing (A annulus) has pressure exceeding 10 percent of its minimum internal yield pressure (MIYP), except for production casings on active gas lift,	once per year, not to exceed 12 months between tests.
(g) your fixed platform well's outer casing (B, C, D, etc., annuli) has a pressure exceeding 20 percent of its MIYP,	once every 5 years, at a minimum.

**§ 250.523 How long do I keep records of casing pressure and diagnostic tests?**

Records of casing pressure and diagnostic tests must be kept at the field office nearest the well for a minimum of 2 years. The last casing diagnostic test for each casing or riser must be retained at the field office nearest the well until the well is abandoned.

**§ 250.524 When am I required to take action from my casing diagnostic test?**

You must take action if you have any of the following conditions:

- (a) Any fixed platform well with a casing pressure exceeding its maximum allowable wellhead operating pressure (MAWOP);
- (b) Any fixed platform well with a casing pressure that is greater than 100 psig and that cannot bleed to 0 psig through a 1/2-inch needle valve within 24 hours, or is not bled to 0 psig during a casing diagnostic test;