Subpart D—Oil and Gas Drilling Operations

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

§ 250.400 Who is subject to the requirements of this subpart?

The requirements of this subpart apply to lessees, operating rights owners, operators, and their contractors and subcontractors.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.401 What must I do to keep wells under control?

You must take necessary precautions to keep wells under control at all times. You must:

(a) Use the best available and safest drilling technology to monitor and evaluate well conditions and to minimize the potential for the well to flow or kick;

(b) Have a person onsite during drilling operations who represents your interests and can fulfill your responsibilities;

(c) Ensure that the toolpusher, operator’s representative, or a member of the drilling crew maintains continuous surveillance on the rig floor from the beginning of drilling operations until the well is completed or abandoned, unless you have secured the well with blowout preventers (BOPs), bridge plugs, cement plugs, or packers;

(d) Use personnel trained according to the provisions of subpart O; and

(e) Use and maintain equipment and materials necessary to ensure the safety and protection of personnel, equipment, natural resources, and the environment.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.402 When and how must I secure a well?

Whenever you interrupt drilling operations, you must install a downhole safety device, such as a cement plug, bridge plug, or packer. You must install the device at an appropriate depth within a properly cemented casing string or liner.

(a) Among the events that may cause you to interrupt drilling operations are:

(1) Evacuation of the drilling crew;

(2) Inability to keep the drilling rig on location; or

(3) Repair to major drilling or well-control equipment.

(b) For floating drilling operations, the District Manager may approve the use of blind or blind-shear rams or pipe rams and an inside BOP if you don’t have time to install a downhole safety device or if special circumstances occur.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.403 What drilling unit movements must I report?

(a) You must report the movement of all drilling units on and off drilling locations to the District Manager. This includes both MODU and platform rigs. You must inform the District Manager 24 hours before:

(1) The arrival of an MODU on location;

(2) The movement of a platform rig to a platform;

(3) The movement of a platform rig to another slot;

(4) The movement of an MODU to another slot; and

(5) The departure of an MODU from the location.

(b) You must provide the District Manager with the rig name, permit number, well number, and expected time of arrival or departure.

(c) In the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, you must report drilling unit movements on form MMS–144, Rig Movement Notification Report.

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§ 250.404 What are the requirements for the crown block?

You must have a crown block safety device that prevents the traveling block from striking the crown block. You must check the device for proper operation at least once per week and after each drill-line slipping operation and record the results of this operational check in the driller’s report.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.405 What are the safety requirements for diesel engines used on a drilling rig?

You must equip each diesel engine with an air take device to shut down
§ 250.410 How do I obtain approval to drill a well?

You must obtain written approval from the District Manager before you begin drilling any well or before you sidetrack, bypass, or deepen a well. To obtain approval, you must:

(a) Submit the information required by §250.411 through §250.418;

(b) Include the well in your approved Exploration Plan (EP), Development and Production Plan (DPP), or Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD);

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§ 250.407 What tests must I conduct to determine reservoir characteristics?

You must determine the presence, quantity, quality, and reservoir characteristics of oil, gas, sulphur, and water in the formations penetrated by logging, formation sampling, or well testing.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.408 May I use alternative procedures or equipment during drilling operations?

You may use alternative procedures or equipment during drilling operations after receiving approval from the District Manager. You must identify and discuss your proposed alternative procedures or equipment in your Application for Permit to Drill (APD) (Form MMS–123) (see §250.414(h)). Procedures for obtaining approval are described in section 250.141 of this part.


§ 250.409 May I obtain departures from these drilling requirements?

The District Manager may approve departures from the drilling requirements specified in this subpart. You may apply for a departure from drilling requirements by writing to the District Manager. You should identify and discuss the departure you are requesting in your APD (see §250.414(h)).

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

APPLYING FOR A PERMIT TO DRILL

§ 250.410 How do I obtain approval to drill a well?

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(b) Include the well in your approved Exploration Plan (EP), Development and Production Plan (DPP), or Development Operations Coordination Document (DOCD);

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]