§ 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) Use a subsea BOP system in an ice-scour area,

Install the BOP stack in a well cellar. The well cellar must be deep enough to ensure that the top of the stack is below the deepest probable ice-scour depth.

(c) You activate blind-shear rams or casing shear rams during a well control situation, in which pipe or casing is sheared,

Retrieve, physically inspect, and conduct a full pressure test of the BOP stack after the situation is fully controlled.

(d) Need to repair or replace a surface or subsea BOP system,

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).

(e) Want to drill with a tapered drill-string,

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.

(f) Install casing rams in a BOP stack,

Test the ram bonnets before running casing.

(g) Want to use an annular BOP with a rated working pressure less than the anticipated surface pressure,

Demonstrate that your well control procedures or the anticipated well conditions will not place demands above its rated working pressure and obtain approval from the District Manager.

(h) Need to remove the BOP stack

Have a minimum of two barriers in place prior to BOP removal. The BSEE District Manager may require additional barriers.