

**014 – NORWEGIAN OIL AND GAS
RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES**

FOR

**MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
PREPAREDNESS FOR ACTIVITIES ON THE
NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF**



Translated version

PREFACE

These guidelines are recommended by Norwegian Oil and Gas Association's (Norwegian Oil and Gas) technical network for health and working environment, HSE Managers Forum and Norwegian Oil and Gas's Operations committee. Furthermore, they have been approved by Norwegian Oil and Gas's director general.

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These Norwegian Oil and Gas guidelines have been prepared with broad-based participation from interested parties in the Norwegian petroleum industry and are owned by the Norwegian petroleum industry, represented by the Norwegian Oil and Gas. Norwegian Oil and Gas is administratively responsible for these guidelines.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

These guidelines will support operators determining quality criteria for the organisation of medical preparedness functions.

1.2 Terms

Section 9-2 of the Petroleum Act requires licensees to maintain effective preparedness at all times.

Health-related matters

Section 16 of the Framework Regulations related to health, requires everyone staying on facilities in petroleum activities to be provided with a sound health service.

Health service

Section 8 of the Activities Regulations relating to health services requires a physician to be professionally responsible for the health service.

The health service's tasks

Section 9 of the Activities Regulations relating to the health service's tasks requires the health service to contribute to establishing the health emergency preparedness as a part of the enterprise's total preparedness. The guidelines to this section are more detailed and include, for instance, advising and expert guidance of the health personnel on facilities or vessels, communication with other health services, and prioritisation of transport of injured or ill persons to land.

Physician on-call

Section 10 of the Activities Regulations relating to a duty on-call physician, requires a physician to be available for contact at all times. The on-call physician shall be, if necessary, be able to travel to the facility at the shortest possible notice.

Emergency preparedness organisation

Section 75 of the Activities Regulations requires the emergency preparedness organisation to be robust so it can handle hazard and accident situations efficiently. The guidelines to Section 75 specify that the emergency preparedness organisation entails the personnel, including a physician, that are directly associated with the unit resources, area resources, the external resources and the regional resources. In order to ensure the robustness of the emergency preparedness organisation, emphasis should be placed on each person's education and expertise, experience, physical suitability, personal qualities and experiences from exercises

and training when selecting the personnel.

1.3 Definitions and abbreviations

Based on the applicable regulations, medical preparedness comprises functions such as on-call physician, emergency preparedness physician and the operator's responsible physician.

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| On-call physician | a physician who can be contacted at all times and can be summoned to the facility on the shortest possible notice, if necessary (cf. Section 10 of the Activities Regulations relating to physician on-call) |
| Contingency physician | a physician who is directly associated with the facilities' resources, area resources, the external resources and the regional resources in an emergency preparedness organisation (cf. Section 75 and of the Activities Regulations and guidelines) |
| Professionally Responsible physician | a physician appointed by the operating company who will have a special professional responsibility for the health service on the continental shelf (cf. Section 8 of the Activities Regulations) |

1.4 References

Section 9-2 of the Petroleum Act.

Section 16 of the Framework Regulations.

Sections 8, 9, 10 and 75 of the Activities Regulations with guidelines.

2. CHANGES

In this third revision, the following has been changed:

Title: "Physician on-call for facilities on the Norwegian continental shelf" has been changed to "Medical professional preparedness".

Chapter 2.2 in previous revision: On-call diving physician has been removed because the term does not exist in the applicable regulations. Section 8 of the Activities Regulations refer to NORSOK U-100 concerning quality requirements for the health service in manned underwater operations. This is safeguarded in Item 3.3.4.

The function of the "Professionally responsible physician" is new in this revision.

Descriptions of the functions, qualifications and reporting requirements have been revised and updated.

3. MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL PREPAREDNESS FUNCTIONS

3.1 On-call physician

- 3.1.1 The on-call physician should always be available to provide medical advice and guidance to health personnel on the facilities, to other platform personnel or directly to the patients.
- 3.1.2 In co-operation with the nurse and platform management, the on-call physician should make decisions regarding medical evacuation including mode of extraction etc.
- 3.1.3 The on-call physician should, based on medical assessment, examine persons sent onshore and ensure relevant treatment if necessary. The on-call physician is responsible for ensuring that the patient will receive satisfactory treatment, including hospital admission, referral to the specialist service, etc.
- 3.1.4 The on-call physician should be able to reach the helicopter base within 45 minutes.
- 3.1.5 The on-call physician should participate in exercises.

3.2 Contingency physician

- 3.2.1 The contingency physician should be available to the operator's emergency preparedness organisation to provide advice and guidance in an emergency preparedness situation.
- 3.2.2 The contingency physician should be able to assist the emergency preparedness organisation in the cooperation with external health resources.
- 3.2.3 The contingency physician should not engage in other tasks or duties during the provision of contingency service. The operator is responsible for transporting the contingency physician to the location where the emergency response team will be mobilised.

3.3 Professionally responsible physician

The operator's professionally responsible physician:

- 3.3.1 is responsible for the organisation and quality of the medical preparedness.
- 3.3.2 should provide guidance and professional advice to the health personnel on facilities or vessels.
- 3.3.3 should co-operate with the external health service and prepare effective arrangements for medical evacuation of ill and injured persons.
- 3.3.4 should establish quality standards for the health service, including diving medicine competency during manned underwater operations.

4. QUALIFICATIONS

4.1 *On-call physician*

On-call physician should be able to document:

- 4.1.1 Norwegian authorisation as a physician and relevant supplementary training, preferably within general practice and/or emergency medicine.
- 4.1.2 Minimum three years of relevant practice and professional experience following Norwegian authorisation.
- 4.1.3 Regular continuing medical education in general practice and emergency medicine including advanced life support, thrombolysis treatment and treatment of medical and surgical emergencies.
- 4.1.4 Knowledge of the local health and rescue service and the interaction with the operator's emergency preparedness organisation.
- 4.1.5 Basic offshore safety and emergency preparedness course and a valid offshore health certificate.

4.2 Contingency physician

The contingency physician should have competence and experience regarding

- 4.2.1 Relevant statutes and regulations.
- 4.2.2 The operator's and contractor's emergency preparedness organisation, preparedness plans and organisation and handling of emergency preparedness situations.
- 4.2.3 The operator's health services and their preparedness procedures.
- 4.2.4 The facility's location and relevant resources.
- 4.2.5 The local health and rescue service and the interaction with the operator's emergency preparedness organisation.

4.3 Professionally responsible physician

The professionally responsible physician should have

- 4.3.1 Norwegian authorisation as a physician and relevant supplementary competence as well as minimum five years of relevant medical practice.
- 4.3.2 Knowledge of relevant statutes, regulations and standards.
- 4.3.3 Basic expertise regarding all aspects of medical preparedness and an overview of local health and rescue services.
- 4.3.4 Updated knowledge regarding the operator's relevant emergency preparedness organisation, health services and preparedness procedures.
- 4.3.5 Knowledge regarding the contractor's organisations, preparedness plans and the interaction with the operator's emergency preparedness organisation.

5. REPORTING

- 5.1 The on-call physician, contingency physician and operating company's professionally responsible physician should at all times submit the reports as required by public authorities.
- 5.2 For each consultation, the on-call physician must file a medical report to the operator's professionally responsible physician within a reasonable period of time.
- 5.3 The on-call physician should immediately report fatalities, serious and life-threatening conditions, catastrophic conditions/imminent catastrophes, SAR assignments as well as suspicion of or confirmed illegal use of drug or substance abuse to the operator's professionally responsible physician.
- 5.4 The on-call physician should immediately notify the operator's health service regarding matters relating to preparedness and working environment that may affect health and safety.
- 5.5 The operator's professionally responsible physician may request other reports.