



## Common Interpretation on which Chemicals are Covered and not Covered by the Harmonised Mandatory Control System under OSPAR Decision 2000/2

(OSPAR Agreement: 2002-06)<sup>1</sup>

1. OIC 2002 agreed on a common interpretation on which types of chemicals are covered by the HMCS as this is crucial for a harmonised implementation of OSPAR Decisions 2000/2, 2000/3 and Recommendations 2000/4 and 2000/5, including:
  - a. the operation of the permit systems and regulations introduced by the Decisions and Recommendations,
  - b. the reporting on compliance and effectiveness of the measures and on the use and discharge of offshore chemicals, and
  - c. the goal setting for offshore chemicals.
2. It is the intention of OSPAR Decision 2000/2 that permits for the use and discharge of offshore chemicals apply to chemicals which are intentionally used in connection with offshore exploration, production and decommissioning activities in the maritime area.
3. The requirements therefore apply to offshore chemicals (including contingency chemicals), the use of which may result in discharges to the marine environment. This includes for example:
  - rig and turbine washes;
  - pipe dopes;
  - hydraulic fluids used to control wellheads, blowout preventers and subsea valves;
  - chemicals used in the actual production and processing of hydrocarbons;
  - water-based and organic phase drilling fluids;
  - cementing chemicals;
  - work-over chemicals;
  - stimulation chemicals;
  - completion chemicals;
  - pipeline chemicals<sup>2</sup>;
  - water injection chemicals;
  - water and gas tracers;
  - chemicals used in "closed systems" where periodic refill is required;
  - jacking grease.

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<sup>1</sup> Updated by OIC 2008 (OIC 08/13/1). Update 2023 (OIC 23/18/01, Annex 11)

<sup>2</sup> Commissioning and hydrotesting chemicals, drag reducers etc

4. For the types of chemicals detailed in §3 a completed Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format (HOCNF) is required.

5. The requirement for a completed HOCNF does not apply to chemicals that might otherwise be used for similar purposes on a ship, helicopter or other offshore structure. This **exempts**, for example,

- products used solely within domestic accommodation areas;
- additives to potable water systems;
- paints and other coatings (including those supplied in aerosol cans);
- fuels;
- lubricants (including those supplied in aerosol cans);
- fire-fighting foams and other chemicals in firewater systems;
- hydraulic fluids used in cranes and other machinery etc.;
- laboratory chemicals;
- chemicals in “closed systems” where periodic refill is not needed.

6. These types of chemicals are not covered by the HMCS and therefore there should be no requirement for a completed HOCNF.