



OSPAR Recommendation 2010/03 on a Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format (HOCNF) ¹

As amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2014/17, OSPAR Recommendation 2019/03 and OSPAR Recommendation 2021/08

(Consolidated text²)

OSPAR Recommendation 2010/03 adopted by OSPAR 2010 (OSPAR 10/23/1, Annex 9)

OSPAR Recommendation 2014/17 adopted by OSPAR 2014 (OSPAR 14/21/1, Annex 24)

OSPAR Recommendation 2019/03 adopted by OSPAR 2019 (OSPAR 19/20/1, Annex 17)

OSPAR Recommendation 2021/08 adopted by OSPAR 2021 (OSPAR 21/13/1, Annex 9)

RECALLING Article 5 of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (“OSPAR Convention”) in which Contracting Parties agree to take jointly all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution from offshore sources;

RECALLING Article 4 of Annex III to the OSPAR Convention in which Contracting Parties agree that use on, or the discharge or emission from, offshore sources of substances which may reach and affect the maritime area shall be strictly subject to authorisation or regulation by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties and that competent authorities shall provide for a system of monitoring and inspection;

RECALLING the programmes and measures stipulated in OSPAR Decision 2000/2 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use and Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals, as amended by OSPAR Decision 2005/01, and the experience gained in its application;

RECALLING the Hazardous Substances Strategy and the OSPAR Commission’s strategic objective with regard to hazardous substances to prevent pollution of the OSPAR maritime area by continuously reducing discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances, with the ultimate aim to achieve concentrations in the marine environment near background values for naturally occurring substances and close to zero for man-made synthetic substances;

RECALLING the OSPAR Offshore Oil and Gas Industry Strategy and the OSPAR Commission’s strategic objective with regard to offshore oil and gas activities to prevent and eliminate pollution and take the necessary measures to protect OSPAR maritime area against the adverse effects of offshore activities by setting environmental goals and improving management mechanisms, so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and, when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected;

¹ This Recommendation replaces OSPAR Recommendation 2000/5 as amended by OSPAR Recommendations 2005/3 and 2008/2.

² The consolidated text integrates the original OSPAR measure with subsequent amendments adopted by OSPAR in a single, non-official document to facilitate documentation. Only the original OSPAR measure and the subsequent measures adopted by OSPAR to amend the basic measure are official documents.

NOTING the relevant legislation within the European Union, in particular Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and corresponding legislation of other Contracting Parties;

and as a consequence **DESIRING** to update the Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format (HOCNF),

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic RECOMMEND:

1. Definitions

1.1 For the purposes of the programmes and measures contained under section 3 of this Recommendation:

- a. **"authority"** means the competent national authority of a Contracting Party to the OSPAR Convention;
- b. **"BPR"** means the EU Biocidal Products Regulation (EU Regulation 528/2012), stipulating approval, marketing and application of biocide products within EU;
- c. **"discharge"** means the operational release of offshore chemicals or their degradation and transformation products into the maritime area;
- d. **"hazardous substances"** means (in accordance with the OSPAR Hazardous Substances Strategy) substances which fall into one of the following categories:
 - (i) substances or groups of substances that are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate;
 - (ii) other substances or groups of substances which are assessed by the Commission as requiring a similar approach as substances referred to in (i), even if they do not meet all the criteria for toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation, but which give rise to an equivalent level of concern.

This category will include both substances which work synergistically with other substances to generate such concern, and also substances which do not themselves justify inclusion but which degrade or transform into substances referred to in (i) or substances which require a similar approach.

The Commission will identify and assess such other substances or groups of substances using available information and internationally accepted methods and criteria
- e. **"HOCNF"** means the Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format;
- f. **"microplastics"**³ (as proposed by ECHA) means a material consisting of solid polymer-containing particles, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and where $\geq 1\%$ w/w of particles have:
 - i. all dimensions $1\text{nm} \leq x \leq 5\text{mm}$, or
 - ii. for fibres, a length of $3\text{nm} \leq x \leq 15\text{mm}$ and length to diameter ratio of >3 ;
- g. **"nanomaterials"**⁴ defined by the European Commission as being a natural, incidental or manufactured material containing particles, in an unbound state or as an aggregate or as an agglomerate and where,

³ Defined as per ECHA publication on 20 March 2019

<https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-restriction-intentions/-/dislist/details/0b0236e18244cd73>

⁴ Defined as per the European Commission publication on 18 October 2011

for 50 % or more of the particles in the number size distribution, one or more external dimensions is in the size range 1 nm - 100 nm. In specific cases and where warranted by concerns for the environment, health, safety or competitiveness the number size distribution threshold of 50% may be replaced by a threshold between 1 and 50%. By derogation from the above, fullerenes, graphene flakes and single wall carbon nanotubes with one or more external dimensions below 1 nm should be considered as nanomaterials;

- h. "**offshore chemicals**" means all chemicals intentionally used in connection with offshore exploration and production activities in the maritime area. Offshore chemicals comprise both substances and preparations;
- i. "**OSPAR Decision 2000/02**" means OSPAR Decision 2000/02 on a Harmonised Mandatory Control System for the Use and Reduction of the Discharge of Offshore Chemicals, as amended by OSPAR Decision 2005/1;
- j. "**OSPAR LCPA**" means the OSPAR List of Chemicals for Priority Action;
- k. "**OSPAR LSPC**" means the OSPAR List of Substances of Possible Concern;
- l. "**OSPAR Recommendation 2010/03**" means OSPAR Recommendation 2010/03 on a Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format (HOCNF) as amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2014/07 and OSPAR Recommendation 2019/03;
- m. "**Plastic**" as defined in the marine environment, are substances that are solid synthetic polymers insoluble in water (ref. OIC Summary Record 2018);
- n. "**PLONOR**" means the OSPAR List of Substances/Preparations Used and Discharged Offshore, which are considered to Pose Little or No Risk to the Environment;
- o. "**preparation**" means a mixture or solution composed of two or more substances;
- p. "**REACH**" means Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (as amended);
- q. "**SDS**" means Safety Data Sheet compiled in accordance with Annex II as laid down in Article 31 of REACH;
- r. "**substance**" means a chemical element and its compounds in the natural state or obtained by any manufacturing process, including any additive necessary to preserve its stability and any impurity deriving from the process used, but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition;
- s. "**Surfactant**" means any substance, which has surface-active properties according to test method A.5 in Regulation EC 440/2008 laying down test methods pursuant to REACH, and which consists of one or more hydrophilic and one or more hydrophobic groups of such a nature and size that is capable of reducing the surface tension of water, and of forming spreading or adsorption monolayers at the water-air interface, and of forming emulsions and/or microemulsions and/or micelles, and of adsorption at water-solid interfaces;
- t. "**use**" means application of any offshore chemical in connection with offshore exploration and production activities in the maritime area that might result in a discharge.

1.2 Further definitions and explanations of terms used in Annex 1 to this Recommendation are given in the OSPAR Guidelines for Completing the Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format.

2. Purpose and Scope

2.1 The purpose of the Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format is to provide authorities with data and information about chemicals to be used and discharged offshore, to enable the authorities to take the appropriate regulatory action in accordance with the scope of OSPAR Decision 2000/02.

3. Programmes and Measures

3.1 Authorities should require the provision of data and information in accordance with the registered data and information on the basis of REACH, if available, or with the data and information in accordance with the HOCNF at Annex 1 in order to examine and decide upon an application for a substance or preparation to be used and discharged offshore in accordance with OSPAR Decision 2000/02.

3.2 Authorities should require that:

- a. data and information about the substance or preparation is provided in terms of its:
 - (i) complete and precise chemical composition, including unequivocal chemical names and CAS-numbers, molecular weights (MW) as well as the percentage content for all deliberately added substances;

and, as they deem necessary, with
 - (ii) country of manufacture;
 - (iii) other trade names for the product;
 - (iv) other countries in which the material is sold;
 - (v) the names and addresses of distributor, producer or importer;
 - (vi) report numbers of the tests carried out in accordance with the requirements stipulated in Part 2 of Annex 1 to this Recommendation;
- b. sufficient information on offshore chemicals is being supplied to operators by suppliers or manufactures to allow them to properly assess the chemicals they use;
- c. the company making the application is aware of the relevant:
 - (i) national guidelines or regulations;
 - (ii) programmes, measures or agreements adopted in the framework of OSPAR.

3.3 Authorities should recognise that some of the data and information provided in accordance with the HOCNF at Annex 1 is confidential and that it should be treated as such. However, any or all such data could be exchanged between Contracting Parties and nominated 3rd Parties who have been notified to the OSPAR Secretariat, in accordance with the Confidentiality Agreement (Reference number: 2007-13).

4. Entry into Force

4.1 This Recommendation has effect from 1 January 2011 and should be reviewed and, if necessary, revised in 2014.

4.2 Upon taking effect this Recommendation supersedes OSPAR Recommendation 2000/05.

5. Implementation Reports

5.1 Reports on the implementation of this Recommendation should be submitted to the appropriate OSPAR subsidiary body in accordance with the timing of the implementation reporting on OSPAR Decision 2000/2.

5.2 When reporting on the implementation of this Recommendation, the implementation format given in Annex 2 should be used.

Part 1: General information

1.1 Trade name

State trade name(s):

.....

1.2 Supplier and background information as regards substance/preparation

Name:

Company number:

Postal address:

Phone no.:

Emergency phone (24 hours):

Facsimile no.:

E-Mail address:

OSPAR Contracting Parties in which the preparation is used:

(including alternative trade names used in those

countries by this supplier)

1.3 An SDS must be attached to this HOCNF format. Confirm: YES

1.4 Use and discharge

Application group	Function	Process system *	Normal dose rate (specify units)	Flow**	Probable scale of use per installation (specify units)	Closed or open system	If open, estimated discharge (%)	Frequency of treatment	Probable amount of substance/preparation discharged (specify units)	Duration of discharge	Total estimated amount of discharge (tonnes)
Drilling # Cementing Completion# ¹ Stimulation# Production# Utility# Other (state) #				Oil# Gas#		Open# Closed#					
Drilling # Cementing Completion# ¹ Stimulation# Production# Utility# Other (state) #				Oil# Gas#		Open# Closed#					

* state the process system to which the substance/preparation will be applied

** state type of flow (oil/gas) on which dose is based

delete if not applicable

¹ completion/workover

1.5 Fate

Explain the likely fate of the substance/preparation:

1.6 Composition

a) State the chemical composition of the substances present in the preparation

Substance Name (and trade name where applicable)	Percentage composition*	CAS No.	EINECS or ELINCS or REACH Registration No.	Molecular weight	REACH Annex IV	REACH Annex V	PLONOR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	-8
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* The entries should add up to 100%

Comments:

(b) Content^{5 6 7 8 9}

Substance Name (and trade name where applicable)	OSPAR LCPA	OSPAR LSPC	REACH Annex XIV	REACH Annex XVII	Surfactant	Heavy metals or heavy metal compound	Organo-halogen compounds	Radioactive substances	Plastic	Microplastic	Nanomaterials	Compliance with / Regulated by BPR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Traces of heavy metals, LCPA, LSPC or radioactive substances should also be entered here.

⁵ Entries under column 4 must be ticked if the substance must be authorised under REACH for offshore use

⁶ Entries under column 5 must be ticked if the offshore use of the substance is restricted under REACH.

⁷ Entries under column 12 must be ticked, if known nanomaterials are present.

⁸ If a substance is intended as a biocidal active in a biocidal product according to the EU Biocidal Product Regulation (BRP) (EU) 528/2012, column 13 must be ticked to confirm that the substance is a biocidal active and that it complies with the BPR requirements. In column 1 the relevant Product Type(s) should also be indicated.

⁹ Entries under column 10 should be ticked if the chemical is, or contains, substances that are solid synthetic polymers insoluble in water, including those supplied dissolved in an organic solvent.

If “Yes” in any of columns 2 to 12 for one or more substances in the above table, please state the details and the concentration of the impurity/component in the table below:

CAS No / name	Compound / contaminant	Concentration (ppm)	Intentional additive (Y/N)	Analytical methodology	If surfactant	
					Fraction released	Documentation /reference to laboratory test

1.7 General physical properties

If liquid, state whether: Single substance Preparation

If mixture of solid and liquid, state whether: Suspension Emulsion Other

Does the preparation separate in sea water to give floating sinking soluble materials? no

If other, please describe:

Part 2: Ecotoxicological information

Please provide the following information:

- a. Is the substance (or all substances of which the preparation is composed) on the OSPAR List of Substances / Preparations Used and Discharged Offshore Which are Considered to Pose Little or no Risk to the Environment (PLONOR) or covered by REACH EC1907/2006 Annex IV or relevant categories of Annex V?

Yes - no ecotoxicological information is required, please proceed with Part 3

No - please proceed to item c

- b. Has the required ecotoxicological information been submitted by the supplier to the competent national authorities?

Yes No - Please complete Part 2 in full

- c. Is the substance (or all substances of which the preparation is composed) registered under REACH EC1907/2006 for specific use and discharge on offshore installations?

Yes Please complete Part 2 in full by providing the specific ecotoxicological information registered under REACH where relevant, if that is legally available

No Please complete Part 2 in full in accordance with the OSPAR Guidelines for completing the HOCNF.

Please note: In addition to fully completed HOCNFs, reports for any non-testing methods or weight of evidence approach must be provided in electronic format (e.g. word or pdf).

2.1 Partitioning and bioaccumulation potential

2.1.1 Log P_{OW} (mandatory) – not applicable for surfactants

The N-octanol / water partition coefficient is only required for organic substances and organo-metals. For preparations individual information for all substances deliberately added is requested.

Substance	Peak No.	Log P _{OW}	% area under peak	Weighted average log P _{OW} *	Lab ID**	Method***	Report ID

* Weighted average log P_{OW} is only scientifically valid for substances or complex substances (e.g. tall oils), which are a group of homologs. When calculated log P_{OW} values are given the calculated method used should be specified.

** Laboratory details may be included in the table or referenced to a separate annex

*** Methodology / Protocols / Literature data sources may be entered here as well.

Comments on results

2.2 Biodegradability

Biodegradability studies are only relevant for organic and organometallic substances. For complex mixtures individual information for all deliberately added substances should be given on separate data sheets.

2.2.1 Aerobic/ biodegradability (mandatory for all organic substances)

Experimental values:

If less than 4 values have been provided, an explanation must be given

Substance	Day	Screening test*			Simulation test*		Lab ID**	Method***	Report ID
		Reference substance	Test substance %	Reference substance %	Test substance DT ₅₀	CO ₂ profile			

Comments on results

2.3 Aquatic toxicity

Test substance:

Aquatic toxicity	Test species	Results		Report details	Comment:
Algae	<i>Skeletonema costatum</i> or*	EC50 (72h): EC90 (72h): NOEC (72h):	In mg/l	Method**: Lab ID***: Report nr: Result based****: on "nominal" or "measured" or WAF	
Crustacean	<i>Acartia tonsa</i> or*	LC50 (48h): LC100/LC90 (48h): NOEC (48h):	In mg/l	Method**: Lab ID***: Report nr: Result based****: on "nominal" or "measured" or WAF	

Fish	<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i> or*	LC50 (96h): NOEC (96h): Limit:	In mg/l	Method**: Lab ID***: Report nr: Result based****: on “nominal” or “measured” or WAF	
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* Specify the Latin species name

** Methodology / Protocols / Literature data sources may be entered here as well

*** Laboratory details may be included in the table or referenced to a separate annex

**** State whether the EC50 was based on nominal (n) or measured (m) exposure concentration or on the water accommodated fraction (WAF)

If data is not available, please enter either “not available” or “not conducted” in the comments box

Sediment reworker test required for substances which:

- a. are "sinkers"; or
- b. have a $K_{OC} > 1000$; or
- c. have a $\log P_{OW} > 4$; or
- d. are in any other way known to adsorb to particles or end up in the sediment; or
- e. contain surfactants ;

Aquatic toxicity	Test species	Results		Report details	Comment:
Sediment reworker	<i>Corophium volutator</i> or*	LC50 (10d): NOEC (10d):	In mg/kg dry weight of sediment	Method**: Lab ID***: Report nr: Result based****: on "nominal" or "measured"	

* Specify the Latin species name

** Methodology / Protocols / Literature data sources may be entered here as well

*** Laboratory details may be included in the table or referenced to a separate annex

**** State whether the EC50 was based on nominal (n) or measured (m) exposure concentration or on the water accommodated fraction (WAF)

If data is not available, please enter either "not available" or "not conducted" in the comments box

Part 3: Confirmation statement

I hereby confirm that I have reviewed this document and that the information submitted is true and that the amounts and values stated are accurate.

I additionally hereby confirm that the laboratory test results and data that form the basis of this document are either in compliance with the requirements of the relevant REACH registration, or in compliance with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) 'Guidance on information requirements and Chemical Safety Assessment', Chapter R4: Evaluation of available information, May 2008 (as amended).

Date:

Name:

Position in company:

Company:

Implementation Report Format

The format below for the implementation report on implementation of OSPAR Recommendation 2010/3 on a on a Harmonised Offshore Chemical Notification Format (HOCNF) should be used to the extent possible.

Country:

Reservation applies

Is measure applicable in your country?

If not applicable, then state why not (e.g. no relevant installation or activity)

Means of Implementation:	by legislation	by administrative action	by negotiated agreement
	yes/no*	yes/no*	yes/no*

Please provide information on:

- a. specific measures taken to give effect to this measure;
- b. any special difficulties encountered, such as practical or legal problems, in the implementation of this measure;
- c. the reasons for not having fully implemented this measure should be spelt out clearly and plans for full implementation should be reported;
- d. if appropriate, progress towards being able to lift the reservation.

.....

* Delete whichever is not appropriate