

OSPAR Recommendation 2003/05 to Promote the Use and Implementation of Environmental Management Systems by the Offshore Industry

As amended by OSPAR Recommendation 2021/07 (OSPAR 21/13/1, Annex 8)

(Consolidated text¹)

RECALLING Article 2 (1) and Article 5 and Article 2 of Annex III to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (“OSPAR Convention”);

RECALLING ALSO the vision and objectives of the OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (“the Strategy”);

RECOGNISING the importance of Environmental Management Systems for the effective application of a goal setting approach;

RECOGNISING ALSO that:

- a. all operators have already systems in place for many years in relation to health, safety and environmental management;
- b. such environmental management systems contain many of the elements of the most recently introduced internationally recognised standards such as:
 - (i) ISO 14001: 2015 environmental management systems - specifications with guidance for use;
 - (ii) Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS); and
 - (iii) corresponding legislation of other Contracting Parties;
- c. international industrial guidelines for establishing environmental management systems have been published by the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP);

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 purpose of this Recommendation:

¹ 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.

‘environmental goal’	means a performance objective, quantified and measurable, where practicable, including those established under the Strategy;
‘environmental performance’	means the extent to which environmental goals have been achieved;
‘Environmental Management System’	means the part of the overall management system applied by an operator that includes organisational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, procedures, processes and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing and maintaining their environmental policy;
‘operator’	means a company controlling the operations of an offshore installation in a part of the maritime area which is under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party.

2. Purpose and Scope

- 2.1 The purpose of this Recommendation is to promote the use and implementation by the offshore oil and gas industry of environmental management mechanisms which are designed to achieve the environmental goals established in fulfilment of the objectives of the Strategy and continual improvement in environmental performance. These mechanisms should include elements for auditing and reporting.
- 2.2 This Recommendation does not apply to a Contracting Party that is a regional economic integration organisation.
- 2.3 The goal of this Recommendation is that all operators within Contracting Parties' jurisdiction in the maritime area should have in place Environmental Management Systems that are in accordance with the principles of internationally recognised standards.

3. Programmes and Measures

- 3.1 Contracting Parties should promote and encourage the use by operators within their jurisdiction in the maritime area of Environmental Management Systems that are in accordance with the principles of internationally recognised standards. Verification that this is the case should be carried out by bodies possessing recognised competence in the area and not connected with the operator.
- 3.2 These Environmental Management Systems should be designed to achieve:
- a. the environmental goals of the prevention and elimination of pollution from offshore sources and of the protection and conservation of the maritime area against other adverse effects of offshore activities;
 - b. continual improvement in environmental performance;
- and more generally to achieve the objectives of the Strategy.
- 3.3 Auditing of the application of Environmental Management Systems should be carried out by persons independent from the operation under audit.

- 3.4 Such systems should provide for operators to report to the relevant authorities of Contracting Parties on compliance with legislation, progress made in achieving environmental goals and continual improvement in environmental performance.
- 3.5 Contracting Parties should also encourage operators to make publicly available an annual statement setting out:
- a. a brief description of the Environmental Management System;
 - b. the environmental policy of the operator including environmental goals, objectives and targets set for significant environmental aspects and impacts; and
 - c. a summary of performance in relation to that environmental policy, those goals, objectives and targets, and any relevant legislative requirements.

4. Entry into Force

- 4.1 This Recommendation has effect from 27 June 2003.

5. Implementation Report

- 5.1 Contracting Parties with offshore installations should report every four years on the implementation of this Recommendation using, as far as possible, the format as set out in Appendix 1.

Format for Reporting on Implementation of OSPAR Recommendation 2003/05 to Promote the Use and Implementation of Environmental Management Systems by the Offshore Industry

(Note: In accordance with paragraph 5.1 of the Recommendation, this format should be used as far as possible in implementation reports)

I. Implementation Report on Compliance

Country:

Reservation applies

Is measure applicable in your country?

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

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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.

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* Delete whichever is not appropriate.

II. Implementation Report on Effectiveness

NOTE: The following data and information should be reported to the extent possible. Please state the reasons, if some required data and information cannot be provided.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Total number of operators to which this Recommendation applies				
Total number of operators with EMS in place				
Number with EMS registered according to EMAS				
Number with EMS certified according to ISO 14001				
Number with EMS according to other standards				
Number of operators making annual public statement				