

Wellbay is the area on a facility within the perimeter of the outermost wellheads.

Well-completion operations means the work conducted to establish production from a well after the production-casing string has been set, cemented, and pressure-tested.

Well-control fluid means drilling mud, completion fluid, or workover fluid as appropriate to the particular operation being conducted.

Western Gulf of Mexico means all OCS areas of the Gulf of Mexico except those the Director decides are adjacent to the State of Florida. The Western Gulf of Mexico is not the same as the Western Planning Area, an area established for OCS lease sales.

Workover operations means the work conducted on wells after the initial well-completion operation for the purpose of maintaining or restoring the productivity of a well.

You means a lessee, the owner or holder of operating rights, a designated agent of the lessee(s), a pipeline right-of-way holder, or a State lessee granted a right-of-use and easement.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

§ 250.106 What standards will the Director use to regulate lease operations?

The Director will regulate all operations under a lease, right-of-use and easement, or right-of-way to:

- (a) Promote orderly exploration, development, and production of mineral resources;
- (b) Prevent injury or loss of life;
- (c) Prevent damage to or waste of any natural resource, property, or the environment; and
- (d) Cooperate and consult with affected States, local governments, other interested parties, and relevant Federal agencies.

§ 250.107 What must I do to protect health, safety, property, and the environment?

- (a) You must protect health, safety, property, and the environment by:
 - (1) Performing all operations in a safe and workmanlike manner; and
 - (2) Maintaining all equipment in a safe condition.

- (b) You must immediately control, remove, or otherwise correct any hazardous oil and gas accumulation or other health, safety, or fire hazard.

- (c) You must use the best available and safest technology (BAST) whenever practical on all exploration, development, and production operations. In general, we consider your compliance with MMS regulations to be the use of BAST.

- (d) The Director may require additional measures to ensure the use of BAST:

- (1) To avoid the failure of equipment that would have a significant effect on safety, health, or the environment;
- (2) If it is economically feasible; and
- (3) If the benefits outweigh the costs.

§ 250.108 What requirements must I follow for cranes and other material-handling equipment?

- (a) If you operate a crane installed on fixed platforms you must:

- (1) Follow the American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice (RP) for Operation and Maintenance of Offshore Cranes (API RP 2D);
- (2) Keep inspection, testing, and maintenance records at the OCS facility for at least 2 years; and
- (3) Keep crane operator qualifications at the facility for at least 4 years.

- (b) You must operate and maintain all other material-handling equipment in a manner that ensures safe operations and prevents pollution.

§ 250.109 What documents must I prepare and maintain related to welding?

- (a) You must submit a Welding Plan to the District Supervisor before you begin drilling or production activities on a lease. You may not begin welding until the District Supervisor has approved your plan.

- (b) You must keep the following at the site where welding occurs:

- (1) A copy of the plan and its approval letter; and
- (2) Drawings showing the designated safe-welding areas.

§ 250.110 What must I include in my welding plan?

You must include all of the following in the Welding Plan that you prepare under § 250.109:

§ 250.111

- (a) Standards or requirements for welders;
- (b) How you will ensure that only qualified personnel weld;
- (c) Practices and procedures for safe welding that address:
 - (1) Welding in designated safe areas;
 - (2) Welding in undesignated areas, including wellbay;
 - (3) Fire watches;
 - (4) Maintenance of welding equipment; and
 - (5) Plans showing all designated safe-welding areas.
- (d) How you will prevent spark-producing activities (i.e., grinding, abrasive blasting/cutting and arc-welding) in hazardous locations.

§ 250.111 Who oversees operations under my welding plan?

A welding supervisor or a designated person in charge must be thoroughly familiar with your welding plan. This person must ensure that each welder is properly qualified according to the welding plan. This person also must inspect all welding equipment before welding.

§ 250.112 What standards must my welding equipment meet?

Your welding equipment must meet the following requirements:

- (a) All engine-driven welding equipment must be equipped with spark arrestors and drip pans;
- (b) Welding leads must be completely insulated and in good condition;
- (c) Hoses must be leak-free and equipped with proper fittings, gauges, and regulators; and
- (d) Oxygen and fuel gas bottles must be secured in a safe place.

§ 250.113 What procedures must I follow when welding?

(a) Before you weld, you must move any equipment containing hydrocarbons or other flammable substances at least 35 feet horizontally from the welding area. You must move similar equipment on lower decks at least 35 feet from the point of impact where slag, sparks, or other burning materials could fall. If moving this equipment is impractical, you must protect that equipment with flame-proofed covers, shield it with metal or fire-re-

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sistant guards or curtains, or render the flammable substances inert.

(b) While you weld, you must monitor all water-discharge-point sources from hydrocarbon-handling vessels. If a discharge of flammable fluids occurs, you must stop welding.

(c) If you cannot weld in one of the designated safe-welding areas that you listed in your safe welding plan, you must meet the following requirements:

- (1) You may not begin welding until:
 - (i) The welding supervisor or designated person in charge advises in writing that it is safe to weld.
 - (ii) You and the designated person in charge inspect the work area and areas below it for potential fire and explosion hazards.

(2) During welding, the person in charge must designate one or more persons as a fire watch. The fire watch must:

- (i) Have no other duties while actual welding is in progress;
- (ii) Have usable firefighting equipment;

(iii) Remain on duty for 30 minutes after welding activities end; and

(iv) Maintain a continuous surveillance with a portable gas detector during the welding and burning operation if welding occurs in an area not equipped with a gas detector.

(3) You may not weld piping, containers, tanks, or other vessels that have contained a flammable substance unless you have rendered the contents inert and the designated person in charge has determined it is safe to weld. This does not apply to approved hot taps.

(4) You may not weld within 10 feet of a wellbay unless you have shut in all producing wells in that wellbay.

(5) You may not weld within 10 feet of a production area, unless you have shut in that production area.

(6) You may not weld while you drill, complete, workover, or conduct wireline operations unless:

- (i) The fluids in the well (being drilled, completed, worked over, or having wireline operations conducted) are noncombustible; and

(ii) You have precluded the entry of formation hydrocarbons into the wellbore by either mechanical means