

(5) Mechanical ventilation systems shall be fitted with alarms which are activated upon a failure of the system.

(6) Gas detection systems shall be tested for operation and recalibrated at a frequency such that no more than 90 days shall elapse between tests.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988, as amended at 55 FR 47752, Nov. 15, 1990. Redesignated at 63 FR 29479, May 29, 1998, as amended at 65 FR 40052, June 29, 2000]

§ 250.411 Securing of wells.

A downhole safety device such as a cement plug, bridge plug, or packer shall be timely installed when drilling operations are interrupted by events such as those which force evacuation of the drilling crew, prevent station keeping, or require repairs to major drilling or well-control equipment. In floating drilling operations, the use of blind-shear rams or pipe rams and an inside BOP may be approved by the District Supervisor in lieu of the above requirements if supported by evidence of special circumstances and/or the lack of sufficient time.

§ 250.412 Field drilling rules.

When geological and engineering information available in a field enables a District Supervisor to determine specific operating requirements appropriate to wells to be drilled in the field, field drilling rules may be established on the initiative of the District Supervisor, or in response to a request from a lessee. Such rules may modify the requirements of this subpart. After field drilling rules have been established, development wells to which such rules apply shall be drilled in accordance with such rules and other requirements of this subpart. Field drilling rules may be amended or cancelled for cause at any time upon the initiative of the District Supervisor or upon the approval of a request by a lessee.

§ 250.413 Supervision, surveillance, and training.

(a) The lessee shall provide onsite supervision of drilling operations on a 24-hour per day basis.

(b) From the time drilling operations are initiated and until the well is completed or abandoned, a member of the drilling crew or the toolpusher shall

maintain rig-floor surveillance continuously, unless the well is secured with BOP's, bridge plugs, packers, or cement plugs.

(c) Lessee and drilling contractor personnel must be trained and qualified according to Subpart O of this part. Records of specific training which lessee and drilling contractor personnel have successfully completed, the dates of completion, and the names and dates of the courses shall be maintained at the drill site.

[53 FR 10690, Apr. 1, 1988. Redesignated at 63 FR 29479, May 29, 1998; 64 FR 9065, Feb. 24, 1999]

§ 250.414 Applications for permit to drill.

(a) Prior to commencing the drilling of a well under an approved Exploration Plan, Development and Production Plan, or Development Operations Coordination Document, the lessee shall file a Form MMS-123, APD, with the District Supervisor for approval. Prior to commencing operations, written approval from the District Supervisor must be received by the lessee unless oral approval has been given pursuant to § 250.140.

(b) The APD's for wells to be drilled from mobile drilling units shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the maximum environmental and operational conditions the rig is designed to withstand.

(2) Applicable current documentation of operational limitations imposed by the American Bureau of Shipping classification or other appropriate classification society and either a U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection or a U.S. Coast Guard Letter of Compliance.

(3) For frontier areas, the design and operating limitations beyond which suspension, curtailment, or modification of drilling or rig operations are required (e.g., vessel motion, offset, riser angle, anchor tensions, wind speed, wave height, currents, icing or ice-loading, settling, tilt or lateral movement, resupply capability) and the contingency plans which identify actions to be taken prior to exceeding the design or operating limitations of the rig.

(4) A program which provides for safety in drilling operations where a floating or semisubmersible type of