

# OSPAR CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC



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

(Reference number: 2002-6)<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 (as amended), 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 used in the actual exploration, exploitation and associated offshore processing of oil, gas and condensate within the OSPAR Convention Area.
3. The requirements therefore apply to operational 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 to include jacking grease, see OIC 2008 Summary Record (OIC 08/13/1)

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

4. For these types of chemicals a completed HOCNF is required.
5. These requirements do 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.