

§ 250.427

30 CFR Ch. II (7-1-10 Edition)

§ 250.427 What are the requirements for pressure integrity tests?

You must conduct a pressure integrity test below the surface casing or liner and all intermediate casings or liners. The District Manager may require you to run a pressure-integrity test at the conductor casing shoe if warranted by local geologic conditions or the planned casing setting depth. You must conduct each pressure integrity test after drilling at least 10 feet but no more than 50 feet of new hole below the casing shoe. You must test to either the formation leak-off pressure or to an equivalent drilling fluid weight if identified in an approved APD.

(a) You must use the pressure integrity test and related hole-behavior observations, such as pore-pressure test results, gas-cut drilling fluid, and well

kicks to adjust the drilling fluid program and the setting depth of the next casing string. You must record all test results and hole-behavior observations made during the course of drilling related to formation integrity and pore pressure in the driller's report.

(b) While drilling, you must maintain the safe drilling margin identified in the approved APD. When you cannot maintain this safe margin, you must suspend drilling operations and remedy the situation.

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§ 250.428 What must I do in certain cementing and casing situations?

The table in this section describes actions that lessees must take when certain situations occur during casing and cementing activities.

If you encounter the following situation:	Then you must . . .
(a) Have unexpected formation pressures or conditions that warrant revising your casing design.	Submit a revised casing program to the District Manager for approval.
(b) Need to increase casing setting depths more than 100 feet true vertical depth (TVD) from the approved APD due to conditions encountered during drilling operations.	Submit those changes to the District Manager for approval.
(c) Have indication of inadequate cement job (such as lost returns, cement channeling, or failure of equipment).	(1) Pressure test the casing shoe; (2) Run a temperature survey; (3) Run a cement bond log; or (4) Use a combination of these techniques.
(d) Inadequate cement job	Re-cement or take other remedial actions as approved by the District Manager.
(e) Primary cement job that did not isolate abnormal pressure intervals.	Isolate those intervals from normal pressures by squeeze cementing before you complete; suspend operations; or abandon the well, whichever occurs first.
(f) Decide to produce a well that was not originally contemplated for production.	Have at least two cemented casing strings (does not include liners) in the well. Note: All producing wells must have at least two cemented casing strings.
(g) Want to drill a well without setting conductor casing.	Submit geologic data and information to the District Manager that demonstrates the absence of shallow hydrocarbons or hazards. This information must include logging and drilling fluid-monitoring from wells previously drilled within 500 feet of the proposed well path down to the next casing point.
(h) Need to use less than required cement for the surface casing during floating drilling operations to provide protection from burst and collapse pressures.	Submit information to the District Manager that demonstrates the use of less cement is necessary.
(i) Cement across a permafrost zone	Use cement that sets before it freezes and has a low heat of hydration.
(j) Leave the annulus opposite a permafrost zone uncemented.	Fill the annulus with a liquid that has a freezing point below the minimum permafrost temperature and minimizes opposite a corrosion.

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DIVERTER SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

§ 250.430 When must I install a diverter system?

You must install a diverter system before you drill a conductor or surface hole. The diverter system consists of a diverter sealing element, diverter

lines, and control systems. You must design, install, use, maintain, and test the diverter system to ensure proper diversion of gases, water, drilling fluid, and other materials away from facilities and personnel.

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