

tests, actuations, and inspections at the facility for the duration of drilling.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

§ 250.451 What must I do in certain situations involving BOP equipment or systems?

The table in this section describes actions that lessees must take when certain situations occur with BOP systems during drilling activities.

If you encounter the following situation:	Then you must . . .
(a) BOP equipment does not hold the required pressure during a test.	Correct the problem and retest the affected equipment.
(b) Need to repair or replace a surface or subsea BOP system.	First place the well in a safe, controlled condition (e.g., before drilling out a casing shoe or after setting a cement plug, bridge plug, or a packer).
(c) Need to postpone a BOP test due to well-control problems such as lost circulation, formation fluid influx, or stuck drill pipe.	Record the reason for postponing the test in the driller's report and conduct the required BOP test on the first trip out of the hole.
(d) BOP control station or pod that does not function properly.	Suspend further drilling operations until that station or pod is operable.
(e) Want to drill with a tapered drill-string.	Install two or more sets of conventional or variable-bore pipe rams in the BOP stack to provide for the following: two sets of rams must be capable of sealing around the larger-size drill string and one set of pipe rams must be capable of sealing around the smaller-size drill string.
(f) Install casing rams in a BOP stack.	Test the ram bonnets before running casing.
(g) Want to use an annular BOP with a rated working pressure less than the anticipated surface pressure.	Demonstrate that your well control procedures or the anticipated well conditions will not place demands above its rated working pressure and obtain approval from the District Manager.
(h) Use a subsea BOP system in an ice-scour area.	Install the BOP stack in a glory hole. The glory hole must be deep enough to ensure that the top of the stack is below the deepest probable ice-scour depth.
(i) You activate blind-shear rams or casing shear rams during a well control situation, in which pipe or casing is sheared.	Retrieve, physically inspect, and conduct a full pressure test of the BOP stack after the situation is fully controlled.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003, as amended at 75 FR 63374, Oct. 14, 2010]

DRILLING FLUID REQUIREMENTS

§ 250.455 What are the general requirements for a drilling fluid program?

You must design and implement your drilling fluid program to prevent the loss of well control. This program must address drilling fluid safe practices, testing and monitoring equipment, drilling fluid quantities, and drilling fluid-handling areas.

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§ 250.456 What safe practices must the drilling fluid program follow?

Your drilling fluid program must include the following safe practices:

(a) Before starting out of the hole with drill pipe, you must properly condition the drilling fluid. You must circulate a volume of drilling fluid equal to the annular volume with the drill pipe just off-bottom. You may omit this practice if documentation in the driller's report shows:

(1) No indication of formation fluid influx before starting to pull the drill pipe from the hole;

(2) The weight of returning drilling fluid is within 0.2 pounds per gallon (1.5 pounds per cubic foot) of the drilling fluid entering the hole; and

(3) Other drilling fluid properties are within the limits established by the program approved in the APD.

(b) Record each time you circulate drilling fluid in the hole in the driller's report;

(c) When coming out of the hole with drill pipe, you must fill the annulus with drilling fluid before the hydrostatic pressure decreases by 75 psi, or every five stands of drill pipe, whichever gives a lower decrease in hydrostatic pressure. You must calculate the number of stands of drill pipe and drill collars that you may pull before you must fill the hole. You must also calculate the equivalent drilling fluid volume needed to fill the hole. Both sets of numbers must be posted near the driller's station. You must use a mechanical, volumetric, or electronic device to measure the drilling fluid required to fill the hole;

(d) You must run and pull drill pipe and downhole tools at controlled rates so you do not swab or surge the well;