

Safety & Environmental Enforcement, Interior

§ 250.801

If you have . . .	you must equip . . .	so you can monitor . . .
(iii) hybrid* wells,	the surface wellhead,	all annuli at the surface (A and B riser annuli). If the production casing below the mudline and the production casing riser above the mudline are pressure isolated from each other, provisions must be made to monitor the production casing below the mudline for casing pressure.

* Characterized as a well drilled with a subsea wellhead and completed with a surface casing head, a surface tubing head, a surface tubing hanger, and a surface christmas tree.

(2) Follow the casing pressure management requirements in subpart E of this part.

(d) Wellhead, tree, and related equipment shall have a pressure rating greater than the shut-in tubing pressure and shall be designed, installed, used, maintained, and tested so as to achieve and maintain pressure control. The tree shall be equipped with a minimum of one master valve and one surface safety valve in the vertical run of the tree when it is reinstalled.

(e) Subsurface safety equipment shall be installed, maintained, and tested in compliance with § 250.801 of this part.

[76 FR 64462, Oct. 18, 2011. Redesignated at 77 FR 50895, Aug. 22, 2012]

§ 250.620 Wireline operations.

The lessee shall comply with the following requirements during routine, as defined in § 250.601 of this part, and nonroutine wireline workover operations:

(a) Wireline operations shall be conducted so as to minimize leakage of well fluids. Any leakage that does occur shall be contained to prevent pollution.

(b) All wireline perforating operations and all other wireline operations where communication exists between the completed hydrocarbon-bearing zone(s) and the wellbore shall use a lubricator assembly containing at least one wireline valve.

(c) When the lubricator is initially installed on the well, it shall be successfully pressure tested to the expected shut-in surface pressure.

[76 FR 64462, Oct. 18, 2011. Redesignated at 77 FR 50895, Aug. 22, 2012]

Subpart G [Reserved]

Subpart H—Oil and Gas Production Safety Systems

§ 250.800 General requirements.

(a) Production safety equipment shall be designed, installed, used, maintained, and tested in a manner to assure the safety and protection of the human, marine, and coastal environments. Production safety systems operated in subfreezing climates shall utilize equipment and procedures selected with consideration of floating ice, icing, and other extreme environmental conditions that may occur in the area. Production shall not commence until the production safety system has been approved and a preproduction inspection has been requested by the lessee.

(b) For all new floating production systems (FPSs) (e.g., column-stabilized-units (CSUs); floating production, storage and offloading facilities (FPSOs); tension-leg platforms (TLPs); spars, *etc.*), you must do all of the following:

(1) Comply with API RP 14J (as incorporated by reference in 30 CFR 250.198);

(2) Meet the drilling and production riser standards of API RP 2RD (as incorporated by reference in 30 CFR 250.198);

(3) Design all stationkeeping systems for floating facilities to meet the standards of API RP 2SK (as incorporated by reference in 30 CFR 250.198), as well as relevant U.S. Coast Guard regulations; and

(4) Design stationkeeping systems for floating facilities to meet structural requirements in subpart I, §§ 250.900 through 250.921 of this part.

§ 250.801 Subsurface safety devices.

(a) *General.* All tubing installations open to hydrocarbon-bearing zones

shall be equipped with subsurface safety devices that will shut off the flow from the well in the event of an emergency unless, after application and justification, the well is determined by the District Manager to be incapable of natural flowing. These devices may consist of a surface-controlled subsurface safety valve (SSSV), a subsurface-controlled SSSV, an injection valve, a tubing plug, or a tubing/annular subsurface safety device, and any associated safety valve lock or landing nipple.

(b) *Specifications for SSSVs.* Surface-controlled and subsurface-controlled SSSVs and safety valve locks and landing nipples installed in the OCS shall conform to the requirements in § 250.806 of this part.

(c) *Surface-controlled SSSVs.* All tubing installations open to a hydrocarbon-bearing zone which is capable of natural flow shall be equipped with a surface-controlled SSSV, except as specified in paragraphs (d), (f), and (g) of this section. The surface controls may be located on the site or a remote location. Wells not previously equipped with a surface-controlled SSSV and wells in which a surface-controlled SSSV has been replaced with a subsurface-controlled SSSV in accordance with paragraph (d)(2) of this section shall be equipped with a surface-controlled SSSV when the tubing is first removed and reinstalled.

(d) *Subsurface-controlled SSSVs.* Wells may be equipped with subsurface-controlled SSSVs in lieu of a surface-controlled SSSV provided the lessee demonstrates to the District Manager's satisfaction that one of the following criteria are met:

(1) Wells not previously equipped with surface-controlled SSSVs shall be so equipped when the tubing is first removed and reinstalled,

(2) The subsurface-controlled SSSV is installed in wells completed from a single-well or multiwell satellite caisson or seafloor completions, or

(3) The subsurface-controlled SSSV is installed in wells with a surface-controlled SSSV that has become inoperable and cannot be repaired without removal and reinstallation of the tubing.

(e) *Design, installation, and operation of SSSVs.* The SSSVs shall be designed,

installed, operated, and maintained to ensure reliable operation.

(1) The device shall be installed at a depth of 100 feet or more below the seafloor within 2 days after production is established. When warranted by conditions such as permafrost, unstable bottom conditions, hydrate formation, or paraffins, an alternate setting depth of the subsurface safety device may be approved by the District Manager.

(2) Until a subsurface safety device is installed, the well shall be attended in the immediate vicinity so that emergency actions may be taken while the well is open to flow. During testing and inspection procedures, the well shall not be left unattended while open to production unless a properly operating subsurface-safety device has been installed in the well.

(3) The well shall not be open to flow while the subsurface safety device is removed, except when flowing of the well is necessary for a particular operation such as cutting paraffin, bailing sand, or similar operations.

(4) All SSSVs must be inspected, installed, maintained, and tested in accordance with American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 14B, Recommended Practice for Design, Installation, Repair, and Operation of Subsurface Safety Valve Systems (as specified in § 250.198).

(f) *Subsurface safety devices in shut-in wells.* (1) New completions (perforated but not placed on production) and completions shut in for a period of 6 months shall be equipped with either—

(i) A pump-through-type tubing plug;

(ii) A surface-controlled SSSV, provided the surface control has been rendered inoperative; or

(iii) An injection valve capable of preventing backflow.

(2) The setting depth of the subsurface safety device shall be approved by the District Manager on a case-by-case basis, when warranted by conditions such as permafrost, unstable bottom conditions, hydrate formations, and paraffins.

(g) *Subsurface safety devices in injection wells.* A surface-controlled SSSV or an injection valve capable of preventing backflow shall be installed in all injection wells. This requirement is not applicable if the District Manager

concur that the well is incapable of flowing. The lessee shall verify the no-flow condition of the well annually.

(h) *Temporary removal for routine operations.* (1) Each wireline- or pumpdown-retrievable subsurface safety device may be removed, without further authorization or notice, for a routine operation which does not require the approval of a Form BSEE-0124, Application for Permit to Modify, in § 250.601 of this part for a period not to exceed 15 days.

(2) The well shall be identified by a sign on the wellhead stating that the subsurface safety device has been removed. The removal of the subsurface safety device shall be noted in the records as required in § 250.804(b) of this part. If the master valve is open, a trained person shall be in the immediate vicinity of the well to attend the well so that emergency actions may be taken, if necessary.

(3) A platform well shall be monitored, but a person need not remain in the well-bay area continuously if the master valve is closed. If the well is on a satellite structure, it must be attended or a pump-through plug installed in the tubing at least 100 feet below the mud line and the master valve closed, unless otherwise approved by the District Manager.

(4) The well shall not be allowed to flow while the subsurface safety device is removed, except when flowing the well is necessary for that particular operation. The provisions of this paragraph are not applicable to the testing and inspection procedures in § 250.804 of this part.

(i) *Additional safety equipment.* All tubing installations in which a wireline- or pumpdown-retrievable subsurface safety device is installed after the effective date of this subpart shall be equipped with a landing nipple with flow couplings or other protective equipment above and below to provide for the setting of the SSSV. The control system for all surface-controlled SSSVs shall be an integral part of the platform Emergency Shutdown System (ESD). In addition to the activation of the ESD by manual action on the platform, the system may be activated by a signal from a remote location. Surface-controlled SSSVs shall close in re-

sponse to shut-in signals from the ESD and in response to the fire loop or other fire detection devices.

(j) *Emergency action.* In the event of an emergency, such as an impending storm, any well not equipped with a subsurface safety device and which is capable of natural flow shall have the device properly installed as soon as possible with due consideration being given to personnel safety.

§ 250.802 Design, installation, and operation of surface production-safety systems.

(a) *General.* All production facilities, including separators, treaters, compressors, headers, and flowlines shall be designed, installed, and maintained in a manner which provides for efficiency, safety of operation, and protection of the environment.

(b) *Platforms.* You must protect all platform production facilities with a basic and ancillary surface safety system designed, analyzed, installed, tested, and maintained in operating condition in accordance with API RP 14C (as incorporated by reference in § 250.198). If you use processing components other than those for which Safety Analysis Checklists are included in API RP 14C you must utilize the analysis technique and documentation specified therein to determine the effects and requirements of these components on the safety system. Safety device requirements for pipelines are under § 250.1004.

(c) *Specification for surface safety valves (SSV) and underwater safety valves (USV).* All wellhead SSVs, USVs, and their actuators which are installed in the OCS shall conform to the requirements in § 250.806 of this part.

(d) *Use of SSVs and USVs.* All SSVs and USVs must be inspected, installed, maintained, and tested in accordance with API RP 14H, Recommended Practice for Installation, Maintenance, and Repair of Surface Safety Valves and Underwater Safety Valves Offshore (as incorporated by reference in § 250.198). If any SSV or USV does not operate properly or if any fluid flow is observed during the leakage test, the valve shall be repaired or replaced.