

Safety & Environmental Enforcement, Interior

§ 250.405

§ 250.401 What must I do to keep wells under control?

You must take necessary precautions to keep wells under control at all times. You must:

(a) Use the best available and safest drilling technology to monitor and evaluate well conditions and to minimize the potential for the well to flow or kick;

(b) Have a person onsite during drilling operations who represents your interests and can fulfill your responsibilities;

(c) Ensure that the toolpusher, operator's representative, or a member of the drilling crew maintains continuous surveillance on the rig floor from the beginning of drilling operations until the well is completed or abandoned, unless you have secured the well with blowout preventers (BOPs), bridge plugs, cement plugs, or packers;

(d) Use personnel trained according to the provisions of subpart O; and

(e) Use and maintain equipment and materials necessary to ensure the safety and protection of personnel, equipment, natural resources, and the environment.

§ 250.402 When and how must I secure a well?

Whenever you interrupt drilling operations, you must install a downhole safety device, such as a cement plug, bridge plug, or packer. You must install the device at an appropriate depth within a properly cemented casing string or liner.

(a) Among the events that may cause you to interrupt drilling operations are:

(1) Evacuation of the drilling crew;

(2) Inability to keep the drilling rig on location; or

(3) Repair to major drilling or well-control equipment.

(b) For floating drilling operations, the District Manager may approve the use of blind or blind-shear rams or pipe rams and an inside BOP if you don't have time to install a downhole safety device or if special circumstances occur.

§ 250.403 What drilling unit movements must I report?

(a) You must report the movement of all drilling units on and off drilling locations to the District Manager. This includes both MODU and platform rigs. You must inform the District Manager 24 hours before:

(1) The arrival of an MODU on location;

(2) The movement of a platform rig to a platform;

(3) The movement of a platform rig to another slot;

(4) The movement of an MODU to another slot; and

(5) The departure of an MODU from the location.

(b) You must provide the District Manager with the rig name, lease number, well number, and expected time of arrival or departure.

(c) In the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, you must report drilling unit movements on form BSEE-0144, Rig Movement Notification Report.

§ 250.404 What are the requirements for the crown block?

You must have a crown block safety device that prevents the traveling block from striking the crown block. You must check the device for proper operation at least once per week and after each drill-line slipping operation and record the results of this operational check in the driller's report.

§ 250.405 What are the safety requirements for diesel engines used on a drilling rig?

You must equip each diesel engine with an air take device to shut down the diesel engine in the event of a runaway.

(a) For a diesel engine that is not continuously manned, you must equip the engine with an automatic shutdown device;

(b) For a diesel engine that is continuously manned, you may equip the engine with either an automatic or remote manual air intake shutdown device;

(c) You do not have to equip a diesel engine with an air intake device if it meets one of the following criteria:

(1) Starts a larger engine;

(2) Powers a firewater pump;