



Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland

Proposals for The Offshore Safety  
(Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations  
(Northern Ireland) 2006

Consultative Document

July 2006

**PROPOSALS FOR THE OFFSHORE INSTALLATIONS  
(MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) REGULATIONS  
(NORTHERN IRELAND) 2006**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. This document seeks comments on proposals from the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (“HSENI”) for Regulations to be known as the “Offshore Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006”. The Regulations would amend the Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (S.R. 1995 No. 340) (“MAR”), the Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion, and Emergency Response) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (S.R. 1995 No. 345) and the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 (S.R. 1996 No. 228).

2. Comments on the proposals are welcome and should be sent by **30th September 2006** to:

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3. HSENI tries to make its consultation procedures as thorough and open as possible. Responses to this consultation will be kept at the offices of HSENI at the above address after the close of the consultation period, where they can be inspected by members of the public or be copied by them. HSENI can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of information given by you in response to this consultation.

4. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, in this case, HSENI. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. HSENI cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential.

5. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances.

## BACKGROUND

6. The definition of “offshore installation” as it applies to United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Great Britain and to the United Kingdom continental shelf (“Great Britain waters”) has been extended by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application outside Great Britain) Order 2001<sup>\*</sup> to include supplementary units providing support services to offshore installations. These units may be wind, wave, tide, current or conventionally powered. The definition of “offshore installation” contained in the Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulations 1995<sup>†</sup> (which apply to Great Britain waters) has also been extended by the Offshore Installations (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002<sup>‡</sup> to bring it into line with the 2001 Order and to apply relevant specific offshore health and safety law to these types of units. MAR now needs to be amended in order to apply the relevant specific offshore health and safety law to the same types of units as the corresponding Great Britain Regulations.
7. The opportunity is being taken to bring up to date the drafting of MAR, the Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion, and Emergency Response) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995<sup>§</sup> and the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996<sup>\*\*</sup> in order to reflect the more recent practice of inserting a schedule which specifies more precisely the offshore application of Regulations.

## GUIDANCE

8. The Health and Safety Executive in Great Britain (HSE) first published guidance to the Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulations 1995 in 1995. This guidance, which is wholly relevant to the Northern Ireland Regulations, has been updated to reflect other changes made since then<sup>††</sup>.
9. These include defining when well service vessels (WSVs) become offshore installations and clarifying the position of specialist support vessels which provide accommodation as offshore installations.

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\* S.I. 2001/2127

† S.I. 1995/738

‡ S.I. 2002/2175

§ S.R. 1995/743

\*\* S.R. 1996/913

†† A guide to the Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulations 1995 (Second edition); HSE Books; L 70; ISBN 0 7176 2572 9; £10.50.





































