
JOINT DECLARATION

and

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CODE

in respect of

Mutual Aid in the event of an Offshore Emergency Situation

2nd revision May 2022

(Original Edition September 1979, 1st revision: December 2011)

In the case an operator requires assistance from another operator in an offshore emergency situation, as provided for by OCES, then that assistance should be requested directly to a potential provider.

Contact details can be found on each operator's web pages.

The principles under which this assistance are requested and provided are laid out in the attached Emergency Assistance Code.

The role of the National Oil Industry Associations is only a secondary one - in maintaining and supporting, to the extent that they can, these principles and provisions

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	2
Background.....	2
Emergency Preparedness.....	2
Associations that are parties to OCES.....	3
2. JOINT DECLARATION in respect of Mutual Aid in the Event of an Offshore Emergency Situation	4
3. OCES, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CODE.....	5
Introduction.....	5
Section 1: GENERAL.....	5
Section 2: EMERGENCY SITUATION.....	5
Section 3: GIVING AND RECEIVING OF ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS	5
3.1 General Provisions	6
3.2 Communications	6
Section 4: CONFIDENTIALITY.....	7
Section 5: DEFINITIONS.....	7
4. The Administration of OCES.....	9
Executive Committee	9
5. National Oil Industry Associations’ Contact Details for the administration of this Declaration.....	10

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

Under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, Offshore Installation Managers, in common with captains of vessels and aircraft, have assumed a duty to render assistance to any person in distress in response to a MAYDAY or SOS distress call. Member companies of the National Oil Industry Associations have always accepted this responsibility and have rendered such assistance to others, members and non-members alike.

Within the offshore petroleum industry emergency situations may occur, in which urgent action needs to be taken to prevent further damage to an offshore installation or other facility or to the environment. This may or may not coincide with circumstances in which persons are in distress. To take account of such situations, the National Oil Industry Associations have agreed to pursue a principle of mutual aid between their members.

In summary, if an operator makes a request for support in an emergency situation, the requested operator should release resources if this is possible. The requester shall pay for these resources.

In 1979, the National Oil Industry Associations of the UK, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands issued a Joint Declaration committing the Associations to the principle of mutual aid in an emergency situation, regardless of national boundaries, and they established the Emergency Assistance Code to govern the provision of this assistance. Subsequently, the National Oil Industry Associations of Ireland and Germany have endorsed the Joint Declaration.

OCES has been periodically revised, the last major review was in 2011. In 2021 OCES has been subjected to a periodical review and it has been updated with some minor changes. This 2022 OCES declaration terminates and supersedes all previous OCES declarations and codes.

Emergency Preparedness

Under the EU Offshore Safety Directive and the national legislations, the operator of an offshore installation is required to have in place effective contingency plans for emergency situations. The offshore oil and gas industry believes in the sharing of resources in emergency situations. Those with the ability to assist, should share means of containing an emergency.

In order to promote and facilitate this sharing of resources, the National Oil Industry Associations have adopted a policy of mutual support between members, and have put in place the necessary arrangements to ensure that support can be provided effectively.

OCES (Operators' Cooperative Emergency Services) is an international arrangement between national oil and gas trade associations that allows operators to call upon each other for support in emergency situations, regardless of national boundaries. Those associations also provide facilitative and administrative support to these arrangements.

The OCES applies to all operators , their facilities and (contracted) services such as drilling rigs, drilling equipment and services, helicopters and support vessels (fire-fighting, lifting, diving, supply).

The Emergency Assistance Code lays down the operational principles under which emergency assistance may be requested and provided. It also sets out the management and administrative procedures to follow.

The Emergency Assistance Code does not take the form of a binding agreement, but incorporates principles for members to follow, as a code of practice.

Associations that are parties to OCES

The National Oil Industry Associations of six participating countries (the UK, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany and Ireland) are parties to this Joint Declaration on behalf of their member operator companies. Their contact details are noted at the end of this document in Chapter 4.

2. JOINT DECLARATION in respect of Mutual Aid in the Event of an Offshore Emergency Situation

The National Oil Industry Associations, acting on behalf of their member operating companies, agree that the fundamental principles agreed in 1979 with respect to providing mutual aid in the event of an offshore emergency situation shall continue to apply to exploration, appraisal, production and storage activities, without regard to national boundaries. They commit each member operating company to:

- Provide each offshore installation with its own capability to deal with an emergency (as required by relevant legislation).
- When requested to do so, provide mutual aid to another operator experiencing an emergency, provided that the safety of its own operations is not jeopardized.
- Release resources such as rigs, vessels, aircraft and other facilities to provide mutual aid.
- Co-operate in the establishment and maintenance of arrangements to enable mutual aid to be provided without delay.
- Apply the principles and arrangements set out in the Emergency Assistance Code that follows.

NOIA	Name	Position	Authorized Signature / Date
IOOA	Ryan Carty	Chairman	 13/10/2022
Dansk Offshore	Martin Rune Pedersen	Chairman	PP  05-10-2022 Managing Director
NOGEPA	Arendo Schreurs	Director	DocuSigned by:  13-7-2022 4148F3E2BF4745B...
OEUK	Deirdre Michie	Chief Executive Officer	DocuSigned by:  27-6-2022 1AB718765C9843F...
Norwegian Oil and Gas	Hildegunn T. Blindheim	Director General	DocuSigned by:  28-6-2022 C46FDF4BF80546B...
BVEG	Dr. Ludwig Möhring	Chief Executive Officer	DocuSigned by:  16-6-2022 EE9FFC3AD473456...

3. OCES, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CODE

2022 EDITION (ORIGINAL EDITION 1983)

Introduction

The purpose of this Emergency Assistance Code (the Code) is to provide a set of principles that facilitate the providing of Emergency Assistance in an Emergency Situation between Members, in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the National Oil Industry Associations. This Code, as may be amended from time to time, shall supersede all previous versions of OCES.

The Declaration and Code are not intended to be legally binding or conflict with or detract from the statutory rights and duties of Operating Companies, Offshore Installation Managers, Masters or Captains of vessels and aircraft or any other person.

The Code has five Sections:

- (1) General
- (2) Emergency Situation
- (3) Provisions for the Giving and Receiving of Assistance in Emergency Situations
- (4) Confidentiality
- (5) Definitions

Section 1: GENERAL

To facilitate the timely provision of Emergency Assistance, this Emergency Assistance Code defines the standing principles and arrangements under which Members may request and provide Emergency Assistance, in accordance with the Joint Declaration.

Section 2: EMERGENCY SITUATION

Emergency Assistance will be provided by Members in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of this Code when requested by another Member in an Emergency Situation.

Section 3: GIVING AND RECEIVING OF ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The provisions that are set out in this section provide for the giving and receiving of Emergency Assistance in an Emergency Situation.

A Member provides Emergency Assistance under these provisions only until the Member with the Emergency Situation mobilizes other resources to contain the Emergency Situation.

3.1 General Provisions

- 3.1.1 A Member shall only request Emergency Assistance when there is no suitable alternative available from its own resources or readily available from the contractor market.
- 3.1.2 A Member is not required to put people or property in danger in order to provide Emergency Assistance.
- 3.1.3 A Member accepts that his own operational requirements may be disrupted or delayed by making available Emergency Assistance.
- 3.1.4 No Member is required to provide Emergency Assistance in circumstances that could give rise to an Emergency Situation in relation to its own operations.
- 3.1.5 A Member may recall Emergency Assistance if faced with an Emergency Situation at its own installation.
- 3.1.6 Members should consider the making of provision for potential emergency assistance in their contractual arrangements.

3.2 Communications

- 3.2.1 Each Member shall establish a single initial point of contact capable of reacting to a call for Emergency Assistance on a continuous 24 hours basis and shall ensure that authorization for the provision of Assistance can be readily given..
- 3.2.2 Requests for Emergency Assistance can be made by telephone and confirmed without delay by e-mail. Requests may be made and communications maintained between Requester's and Provider's initial points of contact as mentioned above or via their emergency control centers.

3.3 Particular Provisions as to Emergency Assistance

The following particular provisions apply when Emergency Assistance is requested by one Member from another under the terms of this Code.

- 3.3.1 A Member will, subject to Clause 3.1, release the Emergency Assistance as soon as possible after receiving a request. It is understood that, when providing Emergency Assistance, a Member will need to consider pre-existing commitments such as operating agreements or procurement contracts.
- 3.3.2
 - a) When accepting Emergency Assistance, the Requester agrees to accept the terms and conditions offered by the Provider in accordance with this Code.
 - b) Where relevant, the Requester will enter also into a separate procurement contract with the contractor which owns or operates the vessel or unit providing assistance.

- 3.3.3 The Requester undertakes no actions to retain Emergency Assistance beyond the period during which its use is essential and shall keep Provider informed of progress, and of the probable time when the Emergency Assistance can be released.
- 3.3.4 Without prejudice to the terms and conditions agreed, the Requester shall pay under receipt of the Provider's invoices all charges incurred by the Provider as a consequence of making Emergency Assistance available, the general intent being that the Provider shall be in no worse or better position than it would have been had it not made available the Emergency Assistance.
- 3.3.5 As between the Requester and the Provider but without prejudice to Third Party salvage claims, there shall be no claims for salvage.
- 3.3.6 Where relevant, contractors shall invoice the Requester directly for their charges.
- 3.3.7 Unless otherwise agreed, any notice which requires to be served between the Requester and the Provider shall be served to the recipient's representative, as detailed in accordance with Clause 3.2.
- 3.3.8 The provisions of Clause 3.3.4 take effect from the time that the Provider releases Emergency Assistance in accordance with Clause 3.3.1 and shall continue until the vessel or unit returns to the Provider. Notice from the Provider will confirm either the time of return of the Emergency Assistance to the Provider's location or the time of completion of re-mobilisation, whichever is applicable.

Section 4: CONFIDENTIALITY

Under this Emergency Assistance Code, and unless otherwise required by law, Members shall keep confidential all confidential information which they obtain through the giving or receiving of Emergency Assistance and to which they would not otherwise have access.

Section 5: DEFINITIONS

In this Code the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them:

Assistance

Vessels, rigs, aircraft, equipment and materials owned, contracted by or otherwise available to a Member which can reasonably be expected to be useful in assisting in an Emergency Situation, together with necessary operating personnel

BVEG

Bundesverband Erdgas, Erdöl und Geoenergie e.V.
(German Association for Natural Gas, Crude Oil and Geoenergy)

Contractor

Any company, entity or person which provides under contract to a Member any personnel, vessel, rig, aircraft, equipment, materials or other services

Dansk Offshore

Danish Offshore trade associations

Emergency Assistance

Means Assistance given by a Member under section 3 of this Code upon a request from another Member to assist in dealing with an Emergency Situation

Emergency Situation

A situation in which people, property or the environment are at risk of (or have already suffered) serious harm due to an event on or near a fixed or mobile offshore installation or pipeline owned or used by any Member, such as a leak, loss of well control, blowout, explosion or fire or other emergency

IOOA

Irish Offshore Operators' Association

Member

An Operating Company that is a member of any of the National Oil Industry Associations

National Oil Industry Associations (NOIA's)

Collectively: Dansk Offshore, BVEG, IOOA, NOGEPa, Norwegian Oil and Gas, OEK

NOGEPa

Netherlands Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Association

Note: Element NL was launched on May 16, 2022, the successor to the NOGEPa industry association. The twelve companies that are licensed to produce oil and gas in the Netherlands are united in Element NL. All industry standards and guidelines, MIAs, training and medical examinations, transport conditions, and environmental protocols will continue to operate under NOGEPa.

Norwegian Oil and Gas

Norsk Olje & Gass

OEUK

UK Offshore Energies Association Limited (trading as Offshore Energies UK or OEUK)

Offshore Installation Manager, OIM

The person appointed by the Operating Company to have day-to-day charge of the offshore installation.

Operating Company / Operator

A Company that is the licensed operator of an offshore concession area or installation

Property

Any item which either belongs to the respective Provider, Requester, Contractor or Third Party or any item for which they have respectively assumed liability under another contract

Provider

A Member providing Emergency Assistance

Requester

A Member requesting Emergency Assistance

Third Party A party other than Provider or Requester

4. The Administration of OCES

Executive Committee

The CEO's (or their delegates) of each of the NOIAs shall form an OCES Executive Committee providing overall governance of the OCES arrangements.

The OCES Executive Committee shall appoint an OCES Executive Committee Chairperson. This position shall rotate, with the appointed Chairperson serving for a maximum period of two years.

The Chairperson shall act as custodian of the OCES during the period of tenure, and shall see to it that:

- the lists of National Oil Industry Association representatives and their operator Members are kept readily accessible for the OCES,

NOTE: It shall be the responsibility of each NOIA to ensure that the OCES reflects their most latest contact details

- OCES is annual agenda item, and
- effectiveness of OCES is kept under review.

The Executive Committee may propose policy changes for ratification by all of the National Oil Industry Associations.

In the event of specialist or other assistance being required, the Executive Committee may include others as temporary members and establish work groups to address specific issues.

5. National Oil Industry Associations' Contact Details for the administration of this Declaration

Denmark:

Dansk Offshore

Telephone: +45 38 41 18 80

E-mail : info@danskoffshore.dk

Website: <https://danskoffshore.dk>

Germany:

Bundesverband Erdgas, Erdöl und Geoenergie e.V. (BVEG)

Telephone: +49 511 121 72 0

E-mail : info@bveg.de

Website: www.bveg.de

Ireland:

Irish Offshore Operators Association (IOOA) - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm., Mon-Fri

E-mail: assistant@iooa.ie

Website: www.iooa.ie

Netherlands:

Element NL was launched on May 16, 2022, the successor to the NOGEPa industry association. The twelve companies that are licensed to produce oil and gas in the Netherlands are united in Element NL. All industry standards and guidelines, MIAs, training and medical examinations, transport conditions, and environmental protocols will continue to operate under NOGEPa.

Telephone: +31 70 3478871

E-mail: info@elementnl.nl / info@nogepa.nl

Website: [www. https://www.elementnl.nl](http://www.https://www.elementnl.nl) / www.nogepa.nl

Norway:

Norwegian Oil and Gas

Telephone: +47 5184 6500

E-mail firmapost@norog.no

Website: <https://www.norskoljeoggass.no>

UK:

The UK Offshore Energies Association Limited (trading as Offshore Energies UK or OEUK)

Telephone: +44 1224 577250 / Mobile: +44 7792 955 261

E- mail : info@oeuk.org.uk

Website: www.oeuk.org.uk