UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

NTL No.2011 N- 08

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NATIONAL NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

Temporary Helideck Closures

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) offers guidance on the recommended safety practice of visual signaling and notification of a temporary helideck closure. This NTL replaces and supersedes NTL No. 2009-P08.

Authority

As required by 30 CFR 250 107(b), you must immediately control, remove, or otherwise correct any hazardous oil and gas accumulation or other health, safety or fire hazard.

In addition, as stated in 30 CFR 250.132, when the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) "... conducts an inspection, you must provide: (1) Access to all platforms ..., and (2) Helicopter landing sites ... for any helicopters we use to regulate offshore operations ...."

Background

Under certain conditions, an installation may prohibit the use of its helideck. There have been incidents in the past involving helicopters landing on temporarily closed helidecks on OCS platforms.

Policy

In the interest of safety using an X-shaped visual indicator as shown in Figures 1 and 2 below, will show that the helideck is temporarily closed and that helicopter landings are not permitted.

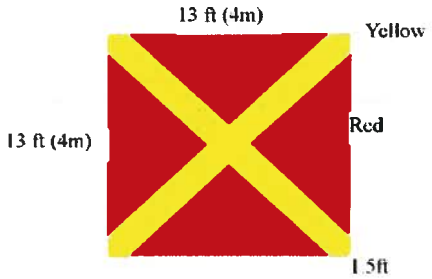

Figure 1

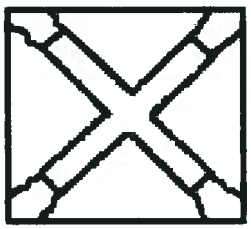

Figure 2
(X-shaped marker shown with rope ties)

Figure 1 is specified in Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) Recommended Practice (RP) No. 2008-01, Section 2.13 *Prohibited Landing Marker*. Figure 1 represents the international standard "landing prohibited" signal; except that it has been altered in size to just cover the letter "H" inside the aiming circle. Figure 2 represents an alternate signal, described in HSAC's RP No. 92-5, Section 2 *Temporary Closing*. A white "X" marked diagonally from corner to corner across the helideck touchdown area is also an accepted visual indicator that the landing area is closed. A temporary marker can be used for hazards of an interim nature. This marker could be made from vinyl or other durable material in the shape of a diagonal "X." The marker should be white with legs at least 20 feet long and 3 feet in width.

Further, the duration, time, location, and nature of the temporary closure should be discussed as necessary with the aviation company supporting the installation. BSEE also recommends the installation's supporting helicopter company issue a Notice to Airman (NOTAM) to all helicopter companies, so the helideck closure notification is widely distributed to all pilots flying in the area.

The referenced HSAC RP's (and others such as No. 2004-07, Helideck Hazards; No. 92-4, Gas Venting, Helideck/Heliport Operational Hazard Warning(s)/Procedures(s); and No. 92-3, Hydrogen Sulfide Gas, Helideck/Heliport Operational Hazard Warning(s)/Procedures(s)) may be viewed at http://www.hsac.org.

Guidance Document Statement

BSEE issues NTLs as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 250.103 to clarify, supplement, and provide more detail about certain BSEE regulatory requirements and outline the information you provide in your various submittals. Under that authority, this NTL sets forth a policy on, and an interpretation of, a regulatory requirement that provides a clear and consistent approach to complying with that requirement. However, if you wish to use an alternate approach for compliance, you may do so after you receive approval from the appropriate BSEE office under 30 CFR 250.141.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information collection referred to in this NTL is intended to provide clarification, interpretation, or guidance of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, subpart A. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in this regulation under OMB Control Number 1010-0114. This NTL and its guidance do not impose information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contacts

If you have any questions about the signaling and notification of temporary closing of a helideck, please contact one of the following BSEE Regional Aviation Managers.

Gulf of Mexico Region:	Ms. Jane Powers at (504) 736-2558	Jane.Powers@boemre.gov
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