

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION**

NTL No. 2009-G19

Effective Date: August 5, 2009
Expiration Date: August 4, 2014

NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL, GAS, AND SULPHUR
LEASES, OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION

Containment for Bolted or Welded Storage Tanks

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) supersedes NTL No. 97-17, effective August 1, 1997, on this subject. It updates regulatory citations, adds guidance regarding level safety high (LSH) sensors on atmospheric vessels, includes a guidance document statement, and updates contact information.

Authority

This Notice to Lessee and Operators (NTL) provides guidance concerning adequate measures for the prevention of pollution from bolted and welded storage tanks on OCS facilities in order to meet the requirement of 30 CFR 250.300(b)(3).

Scope

To assist in the prevention of pollution from bolted or welded storage tanks, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) has established the following policy:

- Do not install a bolted or welded storage tank on a grating or on a solid deck unless (1) the area is lipped and equipped with drains that are piped to a sump or (2) it is placed in a solid containment pan.
- Ensure that containment pans or areas have an inside diameter or dimension at least 3 feet greater than the diameter of the tank and have a containment lip at least 4 inches in height.
- Design and maintain all atmospheric vessels to provide the proper working conditions for LSH sensors. Design the LSH sensor bridle to prevent fluids of different densities from impacting sensor functionality.
- Operate and maintain all sumps to which deck containment areas or pans are piped in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR 250.300(b)(4).

Guidance Document Statement

The MMS issues NTL's as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 250.103 to clarify, supplement, and provide more detail about certain MMS regulatory requirements and to 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 MMS office under 30 CFR 250.141.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

The information collection referred to in this NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, subpart C. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements for this regulation and assigned OMB Control No 1010-0057. This NTL does not impose any additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

Contact

Please address any questions you may have regarding this NTL to the appropriate MMS GOMR District Production Engineer.

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Regional Director