

Member Country Profile – Israel

Organisations:	Ministry of Energy (MoE), Natural Resources Administration (NRA) Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP), Marine Environment Protection Division (MEPD)
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<p>Regime Scope:</p> <p>NRA, MoE and MEPD, MoEP are Israel’s national regulators for offshore petroleum operations in the Israeli waters in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRA is responsible for granting exploration and production rights and monitoring their implementation. The NRA determines the policy and supervises the engineering, well integrity, environmental and safety aspects of all work stages regarding the allocated right, starting from carrying out initial surveys, through commercial production, and ending in the completion of the activity relating to the allocated right. In addition, the NRA is responsible for managing the petroleum rights and charges royalties from the right owners. • MEPD is responsible for all the environmental aspects of planning and operations of offshore facilities, including air emissions permit, marine discharge permit, toxins permit, business license (environmental conditions), oil spill response plan and marine environment monitoring plan. The division is responsible for environmental inspection program and enforcement and compliance assurance. 	
<p>Administering Agency/Arrangements:</p> <p>NRA, MoE and MEPD, MoEP are State of Israel government entities.</p>	
<p>Legislation Type:</p> <p>All oil and gas activities are regulated through the Petroleum Law (1952), regulations and guidelines. Together with the relevant environmental legislation the Israeli regulatory regime is a comprehensive framework of protection measures to minimise the impact of oil and gas activities on the environment.</p> <p>The relevant environmental laws and regulations includes The Clean Air Law (2008), the law for Prevention of Sea Pollution from Land-Based Sources Law (1988), Hazardous Substances Law (1993), Prevention of Sea Pollution from Dumping Activities Law (1991); Protection of the Coastal Environment Law (2004), Business Licensing Law (1988).</p> <p>Inferential conventions and agreements relating to environmental protection can be found: https://www.sviva.gov.il/English/env_topics/InternationalCooperation/IntlConventions/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Marine environmental legislations can be found: https://www.sviva.gov.il/English/Legislation/Pages/MarineAndCoast.aspx</p>	

Links to relevant environment offshore petroleum legislation and guidelines:

Environmental Guidelines for Offshore Petroleum and Natural-Gas Exploration and Production

(https://www.gov.il/en/departments/guides/enviromental_info?chapterIndex=1)

Discharge request guidelines (Hebrew)

(https://www.gov.il/he/service/permit_to_discharge_waste_into_sea)

Toxin Permits

https://www.gov.il/en/departments/guides/toxins_permit

Other information on relevant legislation available at:

<http://www.energy-sea.gov.il/English-Site/Pages/HomePage.aspx>

Extent of Government Approval:

NRA in collaboration with MEPD, where relevant, approves and grants operation and lease licences for all offshore oil and gas activities relating to exploration, development, production and decommissioning. All activities are controlled through the issue of various licenses, permits, or approvals.

The exploration licences are granted through a competitive process according to recommendations that were adopted by the NRA following a Strategic Environmental Assessment. An Environmental Baseline Survey, an Environmental Statement (ES) or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), must be received and approved by the NRA and by the MEPD prior to a right-holder commencing any activity.

Once the operation license has been granted by the NRA and specifically by the Oil Commissioner, the MEPD begins the process of all environmental permitting and ambient monitoring.

Nature of Duties Imposed:

Regulations and guidelines require that prior to commencing relevant activities, right holders must seek approvals by NRA of (i) a drilling program and well integrity plan, (ii) a safety management program for facilities and (iii) an environmental management plan. Right holders also need approvals by the MEPD regarding (i) toxins permit, (ii) marine discharge permit, (iii) oil spill response plan (iv) air emission permit and all related monitoring programs.

In addition, the lease requirements provide for further duties in relation to environmental and safety management for specific petroleum activities under an environmental management plan that ensures activities are carried out in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Physical Objects in the Regime:

To date (October 2020) there are two active fixed production platforms, producing from two different fields and one non active fixed production platform. There are approximately 500 km of subsea pipelines installed, mainly natural gas pipelines.

Assurance Mechanisms: Compliance assurance mechanisms?

Inspections of facilities by NRA and MPED Inspectors based on approved inspection plans (more than 2 inspections of each production facility per year, 4-6 inspections per drilling rig) , issuance and follow-up of recommendations arising from inspections and investigation post-events reports, issuance and publication of certain enforcement actions where appropriate, environmental analysis required prior to acceptance, environmental performance reporting. Also there are intensive table-top reporting and on-line sampling inspections as well as marine monitoring program reporting and feedback as to actions needed, as a result.

Financial Basis:

NRA is funded by governmental budget.

MPED is funded by government budget (roughly 20%) and by a dedicated public fund (managed through the government budget) which is earmarked for marine environmental protection activities (roughly 80%). The fund revenues come from levies, fees, and monetary penalties upon violations of environmental laws.

Environmental Regulation Responsibilities:

The NRA is responsible for environmental aspects within the operational licenses and leases from the planning stages, through engineering, development, production and abandonment. The MPED is the main responsible body for ensuring compliance with the relevant environmental legislation for all offshore oil & gas activities in the Israeli waters. It is assisted by several divisions in the MoEP such as Planning Division, Hazardous Materials Division, Air Quality Division and more.

Oil Spill Response:

MEPD is the governmental division responsible for the regulatory oversight and it is the national coordinator of the overall response operations in response to any oil pollution incident, also these arising from offshore petroleum activities in Israel's waters. Oil Spill Response Plans (OSRP) are required to be submitted and approved by MEPD as part of the environmental management plan prior to commencement of an activity and is also a requirement in the marine discharge permit. The OSRP includes the need for continuous maintenance, frequent exercising and coordination and cooperation with all Israeli relevant entities along the coast.

Transparency:

NRA web site is:

https://www.gov.il/en/departments/topics/exploration_and_production_of_oil_and_natural_gas

Environmental documents submitted to NRA are [published](#) on NRA's [website](#) (https://www.gov.il/en/departments/guides/enviromental_info?chapterIndex=4)

MEPD web site is:

Environmental documents submitted to MEPD are published on MEPD website (https://www.gov.il/en/departments/topics/seas_and_coasts)

Discharge to sea reports (Hebrew):

<https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/DynamicCollectors/freedom-of-information?skip=0&limit=10&file=%D7%9C%D7%95%D7%95%D7%99%D7%AA%D7%9F&topic=d&topics=17>

Air emission permits (in Hebrew):

<https://www.gov.il/he/Departments/dynamiccollectors/permitemissionforzovar?skip=0&EnvSector=%D7%AA%D7%A2%D7%A9%D7%99%D7%99%D7%AA%20%D7%90%D7%A0%D7%A8%D7%92%D7%99%D7%94-%20%D7%96%D7%99%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%A7%20%D7%92%D7%96%20%D7%95%D7%93%D7%9C%D7%A7>

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