

MEMBER COUNTRY PROFILE - NORWAY

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| Country: | Norway |
| Organisations: | The Norwegian Environment Agency |
| Regime Scope: | <p>The Norwegian Environment Agency is responsible for nature management and climate and pollution issues.</p> <p>The functions of the Agency are to monitor the state of the environment, share environment-related information with other governmental bodies and the public, exercise authority, oversee and guide regional and municipal authorities, collaborate with the authorities of relevant sectors, be expert advisors, and take part in international environmental work.</p> <p>The section for the oil and gas industry (within the Agency) is responsible for issuing environmental permits including requirements for emergency preparedness for offshore oil and gas activities and also for compliance monitoring. .</p> |
| Administering Agency/Arrangements: | The Norwegian Environment Agency is a subordinate agency to the Ministry of the Environment |
| Legislation Type: | Acts, regulations and environmental permits. |
| Extent of Government Approval: | The Norwegian Environment Agency requires the operators, as the responsible party, to apply for a permit to commence and carry out any petroleum industrial activities and operations which may cause pollution or risk of pollution. Activities within the offshore petroleum sector that fall within this definition is specified by requirements of the regulations, and include drilling, production, injection, discharges, the use and discharge of chemicals, decommissioning and environmental monitoring. |
| Nature of Duties Imposed: | All operators have a general duty to ensure compliance with requirements in acts, statutory rules and regulations as well as their internal set requirements for their operations. The supervisory activities of the Norwegian Environment Agency do not exempt the operators of this duty. |
| Physical Objects in the Regime: | Relevant in the context of IOPER: Offshore installations and onshore oil and gas facilities. These include exploration and production installations, rigs, FPSOs, subsea installations, wells, pipelines and off- and onshore refineries and processing plants. |
| Assurance Mechanisms: | The Norwegian Environment Agency assures that the industry is complying with regulations by conducting audits and verifications, and by - if necessary - employing its delegated regulatory powers. |
| Financial Basis: | Government general budget allocation. The operator is charged for the processing of applications and for audits carried out in accordance with fixed rates set by the government. The fee is paid into the |

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| | Treasury. |
| Environmental Regulation Responsibilities: | The Norwegian Environment Agency is the main responsible body for implementing and enforcement of the Pollution Control Act and regulations pursuant to the Act. For the offshore sector, preventing environmentally harmful incidents are regarded as safety issues, and is the responsibility of is the Petroleum Safety Authority. |
| Oil Spill Response: | Regulations regarding preparedness for oil spill response are the responsibility of the Norwegian Environment Agency. The operator is responsible for clean-up operations, but may be supervised by the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) if necessary. |
| Transparency: | All correspondence between operator and the Agency is made available for anybody on request. Reports from supervision, applications for permits, permits, annual reports from operators and other documents are published on the website of the Agency when considered to be of interest for e.g. organisations, media, public in general. |
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