

Ensuring Industrial Safety and Security in Times of COVID-19 and beyond

Norwegian Petroleum Sector Response

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Petroleum Safety Authority, Norway (PSA)

Roles and responsibilities

Government supervisory and administrative agency with regulatory responsibility for safety, working environment, emergency preparedness and security

Directorate develop, manage and communicate knowledge within our area of responsibility/technical expertise. Provide advice to parent ministry, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (ASD).

Supervision responsibility includes petroleum, oil and gas, activities

Well-defined interfaces, cooperation agreements with other authorities including health authorities.



Covid-19 situation

Norway lockdown 12th March 2020, 1800 hrs

PSA consequences and continuity

- PSA personnel working from home 13th March onwards
- Extensive use of digital collaboration tools internally and externally
- Supervisory activities performed using digital collaboration tools
- Collaboration with industry working very well using digital tools
 - Safety Forum, three partite cooperation
 - Norwegian Oil and Gas, sector organisation, together with health authorities
- Collaboration with International Regulators Forum (IRF)



PSA follow up of petroleum industry

Supervision

Issues followed up regularly

- Evaluation of HSE situation with regard to regulatory requirements
- Measures adopted to ensure safe operation and emergency preparedness
- Changes influencing planned operations and manning levels
- Upcoming activities or issues that may have a significant effect on HSE
- Safety delegate involvement

Additional specific issues followed up as required



Industry concerns

Examples

Safe and secure operation of facilities

Covid-19 outbreak at facilities, infection being brought to a facility

Continuity of operations and emergency preparedness

Access to personnel and experts to maintain shift rotations and operations

Supply chain, access to essential goods, equipment and critical spare parts

Emergency preparedness capability

Welfare of personnel at facilities



Industry response to Covid-19

Examples

Isolation of facilities as far as possible

- Reduction of personnel at facilities
- Extended duration of shifts
- Health screening of personnel before starting a shift

Contingency plans to ensure critical personnel available at all times

Procedures for isolation and transport of personnel on suspected Covid-19 infection

Procedures for quarantine of personnel before starting work at a facility

Restrictions for transportation on helicopters

Postponement of non-essential work, safety critical activities continued

Special transport arrangements for personnel travelling to facilities



Closing thoughts

The Petroleum Safety Authority is able to continue the execution of responsibilities and perform supervisory activities

The industry has a sound approach to continued safe and secure operations

Cooperation between involved organisations and authorities is very good

Digital collaboration platforms are of vital importance in the current situation

Current approach will continue



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