

OHS Improvement Notice

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006, Schedule 3 clauses 78, 78A and 78B

Notice No: 1969

Date: 25/02/2025

To: Esso Australia Pty Ltd

In conducting an OHS inspection in relation to the West Tuna facility, I [REDACTED], a NOPSEMA inspector appointed under section 602 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (the Act), am satisfied on reasonable grounds that Esso Australia Pty Ltd (Esso) is contravening a provision of a listed OHS law

AND

As a result, there is, or may be, a risk to the health or safety of a person at the West Tuna facility.

The relevant listed OHS law that I am satisfied Esso is contravening is clause 9(2)(c) of Schedule 3 of the Act.

The reasons for my opinion are:

Esso has failed to take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure the Explosion Protected (Ex) electrical equipment installed at the West Tuna facility is safe and without risk to the health and safety of persons, as the current Ex management system does not ensure the ongoing integrity of all Ex electrical equipment installed in classified hazardous areas and external locations.

In particular, during an inspection at the West Tuna facility in December 2024, I observed that the following systems of work relating to the management of Ex electrical equipment were deficient:

Classified Hazardous Areas:

- The platform hazardous area drawing set or documents do not fully identify classified hazardous areas as required by AS/NZS 60079.10.1 (the standard specified in the West Tuna facility safety case) as the gas group, and temperature class which are required for Ex equipment inspection and maintenance are not shown on the drawings or documents.

Ex verification dossier:

- The Ex verification dossier is also missing a number of Ex electrical equipment details which are required by AS/NZS 60079.17 (the standard adopted in the Esso Electrical Integrity Manual). This information is required for Ex equipment inspection and maintenance.
For example, no classified hazardous area (zone, equipment group and temperature class) has been assigned for the location of each Ex electrical item and the dossier Ex equipment characteristics is missing for approximately 50% of Ex electrical items.

Ex inspection records:

- Ex inspection records could not be provided for some previous inspections as required by AS/NZS 60079.17. Copies of previous inspection records are required for all Ex equipment inspections.


As a result of this contravention, I am satisfied that there is, or may be, the following risk to the health or safety of any person:

An increased risk of the number of ignition sources which could lead to an explosion in a loss of containment event. Explosions can result in fatalities or serious injuries to persons at the permanently staffed West Tuna facility.

I am satisfied on reasonable grounds that the following action(s) must be taken by the responsible person to reduce or prevent the risk:

1. Update the hazardous area documents including drawing set to identify the full hazardous area classification as specified by AS/NZS 60079.10.1.
2. Update the Ex verification dossier so it is complete, accurate and up-to-date and includes all Ex electrical equipment items installed in zoned hazardous areas or external locations, as specified by AS/NZS 60079.14 and AS/NZS 60079.17.
3. Ensure copies of all Ex inspections are recorded and retained and the Ex verification dossier is up-to-date with these records, as specified by AS/NZS 60079.17.

You are required to take action to reduce or prevent the risk for equipment not requiring facility shutdown within 270 days from the date of this notice. For equipment requiring facility shutdown, you are required to schedule and complete in the next annual shutdown.


NOPSEMA INSPECTOR
wA935416

25 February 2025

When the required action(s) has been completed, the Responsible Person is to submit this part of the notice to the following person via:

Post: Level 10, 58 Mounts Bay Road
Perth WA 6000

Email: submissions@nopsema.gov.au

Name: [REDACTED]
Position: **NOPSEMA INSPECTOR**
Contact number: [REDACTED]

By signing below, I confirm on behalf of Esso Australia Pty Ltd that the specified action described in Improvement Notice No. **1969** has been undertaken within the period specified.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(to be signed by responsible person only when the notice has been complied with)

Notes

1. Under clause 78A of Schedule 3 to the Act, a responsible person who fails to ensure that this notice is complied with, to the extent that it relates to any matter over which the responsible person has control:
 - a. commits an offence and may be liable to a penalty of 300 penalty units for the offence; or
 - b. contravenes a civil penalty provision and may be liable to a civil penalty of 400 penalty units.
2. For every day proceeding the initial offence or contravention the notice is not complied with, the responsible person commits an offence or contravention in respect of each day (including a day of a conviction under this clause or any later day) during which the offence or contravention continues.
3. A copy of this notice must be displayed in a prominent place at or near each workplace which work affected by the notice is being performed. It is an offence to tamper with or remove it until the notice has ceased to have effect.
4. The recipient of this notice must ensure that all relevant requirements for giving copies of the notice to certain persons and representatives are complied with in accordance with cl 78B to Schedule 3 to the Act.
5. Under clause 80A of Schedule 3 to the Act, any of the following persons may request the reviewing authority in writing to review the NOPSEMA inspector's decision:
 - the operator of the facility;
 - the titleholder, if the notice is issued to a titleholder;
 - any person to whom an improvement notice has been issued;
 - an employer, if affected by the decision;
 - a relevant health and safety representative; a relevant workforce representative, if requested by a member of the workforce affected by the decision;
 - a person who owns any workplace plant, substance or thing to which the NOPSEMA inspector's decision relates.