

OHS Improvement Notice

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

Notice No: 2092

Date: 22/04/2026

To: Esso Australia Pty Ltd (EAPL) (ACN 000018566)

In conducting an OHS inspection in relation to the Marlin Complex 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 (EAPL) 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 Marlin Complex facility.

The relevant listed OHS law that I am satisfied is being contravened is:

Schedule 3, clause 9(1)(b) of the Act.

The reasons for my opinion are:

On 5th January 2026, I conducted Inspection 5391 looking at the alignment between EAPL's corporate standards for managing risks from work on or near electrical equipment and AS/NZS 4836, and the Energy Safe Victoria Code of Practice 'Blue Book' for high voltage systems, as relevant authoritative sources of good practice.

As well as reviewing EAPL's management system documentation, the inspection team sampled electrical isolation permit packs for critical and high-risk electrical works including intrusive electrical disconnect activities. The permits concerned were: 367414 AUMA 11, 0-AUMA-100258382, 0-AUWT-100207876, 385011 AUMA 11 and 0-AUMA-100277668.

Gaps between the requirements of AS/NZS 4836 and EAPL's systems and practices were found, examples of which include:

- None of the permits were supported with an electrical drawing to identify the isolation point(s) and, where relevant, the required earthing point(s). This could mean that insufficient information on correct isolation and earthing measures was provided and thereby result in electrocution or serious injury.
- For work covered by MWO 23332780, permit 0-AUMA-100258382, the procedure being followed, OFS MP MLAMLB 500, Racking of ABB SACE ACB's, requires the use of four sets of schematic diagrams. These were not attached to the permits. This could mean that insufficient information on correct isolation and earthing measures was provided and thereby result in electrocution or serious injury.
- MWO 11494212 permit 0-AUWT-100277668 GLO MP 554, the procedure for Discharging and Earthing of Electrical Equipment the procedures specifically require referenced drawings which were not attached to the permits. This could mean that insufficient information on correct isolation and earthing measures was provided and thereby result in electrocution or serious injury.

- For work described by permit 367414 AUMA 11, the isolation plan and work method statement contained in the Electrical Access Permit identified different circuit breakers numbers for the same isolation point. This could lead to a fatality due to an incorrect switch being isolated. For this work, no arc flash incident energy was identified, to determine if personal protective equipment could protect against any arc flash.
- For work covered by MWO 11494212, permit number 0-AUWT-100207876, the isolation certificate, its associated switching program and access permit used different terminology for the same isolation step mechanism. This could lead to a fatality due to an incorrect switch being isolated.
- Work covered by MWO 11228871, permit 367414 AUMA 11 involving a 415-volt isolation for intrusive electrical disconnect activities was not supported with electrical risk assessments. This could lead to insufficient precautions being taken to prevent electric shock or burns and other harm from arc flash events.
- Work covered by MWO 11499800, permit 0-AUMA-100277668, a 415-volt isolation was not supported with a 'High Risk Electrical Checklist'. This could result in steps to prevent harm not being taken, and result in death or serious harm from electric shock or arc flash explosions.
- Arc flash incident energy was not identified on any permit. This would prevent proper identification of the appropriate personal protective equipment to be worn, resulting in an increased risk of harm from arc flash incidents.
- Permits 367414 AUMA 11, 385011 AUMA 11 and 0-AUMA-100277668 did not identify arc flash personal protective equipment or arc flash boundaries for protection against potential arc flash explosion. This could lead to an increased risk to people near an arc flash incident being harmed if they stand too close to the electrical equipment and an arc flash occurred.
- The voltage was not identified for the permits lower than 1000 volts. This hinders identification of possible control measures to prevent harm from work on or near electrical equipment.
- The electrical 'work zone' was not identified on any permit, preventing identification and use of appropriate control measures to prevent electric shocks.
- For work covered by MWO 11494212 0-AUWT-100277668, the procedure GLO MP 554 was not checked off.
- For work covered by MWO 11494212, permit number 0-AUWT-100207876, the earthing switching procedure and the GLO MP 554 procedure were not checked off, and the switching program does not follow the template contained in the Energy Safe Victoria Code of Practice 'Blue Book'.

Each of these identified gaps represent the failure to take reasonably practicable steps to prevent and limit exposure to death or serious harm from electric shocks and arc flash events and therefore such work carried out on the facility is not carried out in a manner that is safe.

In addition to the above points, I found that completed copies of permits were not retained for long enough to be subject to EAPL's safety management system audits, which is a requirement of commitments given in the safety case for the facility, thereby reducing the opportunity for EAPL to identify and rectify problems with the management of electrical work on the facility.

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:

Death or serious injury from electric shocks or arc flash explosions resulting from failure of the EAPL's safety management system documents and permit system to ensure the taking of reasonably practicable precautions when doing electrical work.


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

EAPL are to submit documented evidence to NOPSEMA that the systems, procedures and processes have been amended and updated to ensure compliance with AS/NZS 4836. The documentary evidence must demonstrate that the following actions have been completed.

1. Review and amend any systems, procedures or processes for managing risks from work on or near electrical installations and equipment to ensure they fully meet the requirements of the AS/NZS 4836 standard. EAPL are to submit the amended systems, procedures and processes documents to NOPSEMA.
2. Review the use of electrical isolation permits and enact any required changes to permit systems and operating practices to ensure that:
 - a. all relevant information is presented to those using the permit system to correctly identify and record all actions and equipment that are required for safety,
 - b. all relevant documentation is properly completed,
 - c. full records are kept for sufficient time to allow proper auditing of the use of electrical permits in accordance with EAPL's Offshore Integrity Management System Assessment processes, and
 - d. they are safe, accurate, complete and meet the requirements of industry good practice, as set out in AS/NZS4836 and the Energy Safe Victoria Code of Practice 'Blue Book'.

EAPL are to submit a written report on the process and the outcomes to NOPSEMA.

You are required to take action to reduce or prevent the risk **within 180 days from the date of this notice.**


NOPSEMA INSPECTOR
wA1103634

22 April 2026

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 (EAPL) that the specified action described in Improvement Notice No. 2092 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.