

OHS Prohibition Notice

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006, Schedule 3 Clause 77 and 77A

Notice No: 2003

Date: 05/05/2025

To: Ensco Australia Pty Ltd

In conducting an OHS inspection (PI-5058) in relation to the VALARIS MS-1 facility (**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 an activity may occur at the facility that, if it occurred, would involve an immediate threat to the health or safety of a person

AND

It is reasonably necessary to issue this notice to Ensco Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 79 100 601 634) in order to remove the immediate threat to the health or safety of a person.

The activity that may occur, which if it occurred would involve an immediate threat to health or safety of a person is:

Continuing drilling operations in potentially pressured zones of the Santos title area (NT/L1) as described in the Valaris MS-1 safety case revision accepted by NOPSEMA on 3 April 2025, with well control equipment that is non-compliant to the standard specified in the facility safety case (API STD 53).

The reasons why the activity may cause an immediate threat to the health or safety of a person are:

Based on the following, the Blow out Preventer (**BOP**) system is degraded and may not function as intended in an emergency scenario, such as a well blowout, resulting in a potential major accident event with serious or fatal health consequences to workers:

- The lower pipe rams on the facility BOP failed the API STD 53 pressure test required once the BOP had been landed subsea. (API STD 53 table C.12).
- The BOP Ram functionality in an emergency is reduced to one set of pipe rams (tested to hold pressure on the ram locks), where a minimum of two sets of fully functional and tested pipe rams with locking capability are required by API Standard 53, 'Well Control Equipment Systems for Drilling Wells', Fifth Edition, 2018 (Clause 6.1.3.8 and Clause 6.1.3.10).

Ensco have previously been informed that NOPSEMA considered the BOP to be non-compliant and at the date of this notice have not advised NOPSEMA that any action has been taken.

I THEREFORE DIRECT Ensco Australia Pty Ltd to ensure that the activity is not conducted.

The action(s) that may be taken to adequately remove the immediate threat to health or safety of a person include, but is not limited to:

1. Secure the current well (BR N1 1) as soon as possible using the most suitable method.
2. Retrieve the BOP to surface to return it to compliance.

3. While conducting action #1 implement such controls as necessary to reduce risk at the facility to ALARP.


NOPSEMA INSPECTOR


05 May 2025

Notes

1. Under clause 77A of Schedule 3 to the Act, this notice ceases to have effect when the NOPSEMA inspector notifies the responsible person that the inspector is satisfied that adequate action has been taken to remove the threat to health or safety.
2. Under clause 77 of Schedule 3 to the Act, a person commits an offence if the person omits to do an act that breaches this notice, that person may be liable to a penalty of 600 penalty units.
3. For every day proceeding the initial offence that the notice is not complied with, the responsible person commits an offence in respect of each day (including a day of a conviction under this clause or any later day) during which the offence continues.
4. A copy of this notice must displayed in a prominent place at the workplace. It is an offence to tamper with or remove it until the notice has ceased to have effect.
5. 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 77 of Schedule 3 to the Act.
6. Under clause 80A of Schedule 3 to the Act, the following persons may appeal against the decision to issue the prohibition notice to the reviewing authority:
 - the operator of the facility;
 - the titleholder, if the notice is issued to a titleholder;
 - 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.