

Safety bulletin

COMPETENCY FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND HIGH-RISK ACTIVITIES



NOPSEMA

Australia's offshore
energy regulator

6/08/2025

Purpose

NOPSEMA Safety Bulletin detailing our ALARP position on minimum competency for emergency response roles and high-risk activities.

Scope

Emergency response and high-risk activities.

Hazard identification and controls

Operators of facilities should ensure that personnel filling emergency response roles or conducting high-risk activities have undertaken appropriate training and achieved relevant competencies.

For example, the minimum competencies NOPSEMA would consider as ALARP (as low as reasonably practicable) for emergency response and high-risk activity roles should align with one of the following:

- The Australian Qualifications Framework or an equivalent course provided by an internationally recognised training provider.
- Compliance with an Australian standard or equivalent international standard, e.g. Confined spaces AS-2865-2009 or equivalent.
- The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended (STCW), which sets the standards of competence and certification for seafarers.

The following are examples of Emergency Response Roles that require minimum competencies:

Confined space entry	Confined space rescue team
Working at height	Rescue at height team
Medical emergencies	Medic, Medical team member/stretchers bearer
Firefighting	Fire team lead, Fire team, Breathing apparatus
Helideck	Helicopter Landing Officer (HLO), Helideck firefighting, Refuelling
Marine	Lifeboat Coxswain, Fast Rescue Craft Operator

The following are examples of high-risk activity roles that require minimum competencies:

- Confined space entry supervisor
- Gas tester
- Working at height

- Crane operator
- Dogman/Banksman
- Shipping hazardous materials (by sea or by air)
- Scaffolder

These lists are not exhaustive and NOPSEMA expects all personnel filling emergency response roles or conducting high-risk activities to have completed relevant training and achieved required competencies.

The legislation

Section 9, Division 1, Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* describes relevant operator duties, including taking all reasonable steps to provide all members of the workforce, in appropriate languages, with the information, instruction, training and supervision necessary for them to carry out their activities in a manner that does not adversely affect the health and safety of persons at the facility.

Regulation 2.9 of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2024* requires that a facility safety case must describe how the operator of a facility will ensure that each member of the facility workforce has the necessary skills, training and ability to undertake routine and non-routine tasks given to them in normal, abnormal and emergency conditions, and to respond and react appropriately during an emergency. Regulation 2.45 requires that a person must not do any work at a facility that is contrary to the in-force safety case.

Contact

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