

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
PACIFIC OCS REGION**

NTL No. 2009-P08

Effective Date: December 16, 2009
Expiration Date: December 15, 2014

**NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASES
IN THE PACIFIC OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REGION**

Helideck Closures

This notice supersedes Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) 2003-06.

There have been incidents in the past involving helicopters landing on temporarily closed helidecks on platforms in the Pacific OCS Region. In the interest of safety, we recommend that the following corrective actions be taken. We recommend implementation and continued application of these procedures pursuant to Title 30 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 250.107(b): "You must immediately control, remove, or otherwise correct any hazardous oil and gas accumulation or other health, safety, or fire hazard."

In addition, as stated in 30 CFR Section 250.132, "[w]hen MMS conducts an inspection, you must provide: (1) Access to all platforms ..., and (2) Helicopter landing sites ... for any helicopters we use to regulate offshore operations." The following recommended procedures will help ensure safe access.

To show that a helideck is temporarily closed, for any reason, and that helicopter landings are not permitted during the closure, a uniform visual indicator is needed. As specified in the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) Recommended Practices Nos. 92-3 and -4, a red rotating beacon or red high-intensity strobe light adjacent to the primary helideck stairwell should be activated to provide visible warning of any hazard that warrants the temporary closing of a facility's helideck. Placement of the red rotating beacon or red high-intensity strobe light should be reviewed to prevent obstructions and ensure proper clearance. The beacon or light should be turned off when the hazard no longer exists.

The duration, time, location, and nature of the temporary closure should be discussed as necessary with company aviation departments, nearby helicopter bases, and helicopter pilots supporting the area.

The referenced HSAC Recommended Practices (and others such as RP No. 2004-07, Helideck Hazards) may be viewed at <http://www.hsac.org/>.


Guidance Document Statement

The MMS issues NTL's as guidance documents in accordance with 30 CFR 250.103 to clarify, supplement, and provide more detail about certain MMS regulatory requirements and to outline the information you provide in your various submittals. Under that authority, this NTL sets forth a policy on and an interpretation of a regulatory requirement that provides a clear and consistent approach to complying with that requirement. However, if you wish to use an alternate approach for compliance, you may do so, after you receive approval from the appropriate MMS office under 30 CFR 250.141.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

This NTL does not impose information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

If you have any questions or need clarification regarding this NTL, please contact the California District Manager at (805) 389-7560.


Ellen G. Aronson
Regional Director
Pacific OCS Region

12.16.09
Date