



BSEE promotes compliance with safety and environmental standards through annual, regular inspections and other no-notice and monitoring activities.

Through timely notice of detected violations, BSEE provides operators clear instructions for coming into compliance, and reasonable opportunities to make corrections.

BSEE's intent is to prevent incidents; however, should they occur, BSEE has a duty to investigate, determine the causal elements/factors, and take the appropriate corrective actions.

The agency incorporates a varied enforcement approach in response to incidents depending on the severity and other causal factors.

SAFETY ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Safety Enforcement Division develops and maintains national compliance and enforcement policy and organizing enforcement strategy for the bureau.

SED collaborates with bureau and Interior stakeholders in order to enforce safety on the Outer Continental Shelf.



ENFORCEMENT TOOLS

Many violations can be detected early through inspections and other monitoring activities.

In such instances, timely notice is given to the operator, clear direction on how to come into compliance, and a reasonable opportunity to correct the condition causing a violation.

Any detected immediate threat to safety or the environment is mitigated through shut-in enforcement actions.

Operators additionally are subject to enforcement actions for failing to correct previously identified violations.

CLEAR STANDARDS

REPORTING &
RECORD KEEPING

EFFECTIVE FIELD
OVERSIGHT

ENFORCEMENT
TOOLS

INCENTIVE TO MOVE
BEYOND BASELINE
COMPLIANCE

On rare occasions, BSEE investigations will detect evidence of knowing and willful misconduct or otherwise unlawful activity.

Although BSEE is not a law enforcement agency, such evidence, when detected, is properly preserved until a transfer to designated law enforcement investigators is accomplished.

The BSEE OCS Civil Penalties Program is designed to encourage compliance with OCS statutes and regulations through the pursuit, assessment, and collection of civil penalties and when appropriate, referrals for the consideration of criminal penalties.

For operators who are suspected of committing criminal violations, BSEE refers those violations to the Department of the Interior's Inspector General.

The Inspector General reviews and investigates the incidents and refers cases to the Department of Justice for criminal law enforcement.

Additionally, BSEE can make recommendations to the Inspector General for debarment proceedings that prohibit a company further operation on the OCS.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, established in 2011, is a U.S. Department of the Interior agency. BSEE promotes worker safety, environmental protection and conservation of resources through regulatory oversight and enforcement of the offshore energy industry on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.

