



North Sea
Transition
Authority

Retention of Information and Samples Guidance

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to OGA.TechData@ogauthority.co.uk

1. Scope and purpose of this document

This document provides guidance on The Oil and Gas Authority (Offshore Petroleum) (Retention of Information and Samples) Regulations 2018 (the “Regulations”) made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (the Secretary of State) under Section 28(1) of the Energy Act 2016¹ (“the Act”).

The regulations² were laid before Parliament on 24 April 2018 and came into force on 14 May 2018.

This guidance is intended to aid understanding and interpretation of the Regulations, and to provide technical detail on the categories of information and samples required to be retained under the Regulations. Accordingly, the focus of this document is what information and samples must be retained, by whom and for how long.

Other provisions of the Act, such as the reporting of information and samples to the OGA pursuant to a reporting notice issued under section 34 of the Act, and their subsequent disclosure by the OGA, are not in the scope of this guidance. The OGA intends to cover these in separate guidance documents to be published at a later date.

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/20/contents/enacted>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/514/contents/made>

2. Introduction and Context

Sir Ian Wood published the UKCS Maximising Recovery Review Final Report (the Wood Maximising Recovery review), following which, government introduced the Act which received Royal Assent on 12 May 2016, bringing into law key recommendations from the review.

Amongst the key recommendations of the Wood Maximising Recovery review was that the OGA should receive additional powers to support the principal objective of maximising the economic recovery of the UK's oil and gas resource (MER UK). One of the aims of these powers was to “ensure greater access to the timely and transparent data necessary for a competitive market”.

The Act includes powers relating to retention of petroleum-related information and samples by relevant persons (as defined in section 9A(1) (b) of the Petroleum Act 1998), reporting them to the OGA and their subsequent disclosure by the OGA. Section 28 of the Act gave the Secretary of State the power to make regulations in relation to retention of such information and samples.

The policies on which the Regulations are based were consulted upon by the OGA in July and August 2017. The OGA's consultation response was published around the time that the Regulations were laid and is available on the OGA website³.

The Regulations set out **who** must retain information and samples, **what** information and samples must be retained, and **when** the requirement to retain those information and samples ends.

The retention obligations are intended to support MER UK by:

- ensuring relevant information and samples from the UKCS are not lost or destroyed – the Regulations impose an obligation to retain such information and samples
- setting out identifiable retention obligations – the Regulations detail what information and samples are required to be retained and by whom
- minimising industry burden – the requirement to retain relevant information and samples is not intended to place undue burden on relevant persons. The Regulations set out the period for which the obligation to retain applies.

What are Information and Samples?

In this document, the terms ‘information’ and ‘samples’ mean ‘petroleum-related information’ and ‘petroleum-related samples’ respectively, both of which are defined in section 27(1) of the Act.

The Regulations require the *content* of information to be retained, not every individual format in which that information is held, unless explicitly required by the Regulations. For example, where information which falls into one of the categories described below is contained in a report, it is the *information* which must be retained, not a specific draft of a report containing that information. Draft or duplicate reports are not required to be preserved, provided the information is retained (either in the latest version of the report or otherwise).

³<https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/news-publications/consultations/2018/oga-response-to-consultation-on-proposed-regulations-for-the-retention-and-disclosure-of-information-and-samples/>

Who must retain Information and Samples?

The Regulations require “specified relevant persons” to retain specified petroleum-related information. “Relevant persons” are defined in the Act as being those persons listed in section 9A(1)(b) of the Petroleum Act 1998.

The Regulations specify that certain relevant persons that create or acquire particular categories of information or samples (or for whom the information or samples were created on behalf of) must retain those information or samples.

In the case of information and samples created or acquired under offshore petroleum licences, the requirement to retain information and samples applies jointly and severally to all licensees in a licensee group. However, it is for the licensee group to decide how to meet its retention obligations under the Regulations.

Creation and Acquisition of Information and Samples

The Regulations impose an obligation on certain relevant persons to retain specified categories of information and samples which are either held by such persons at the time of the Regulations coming into force, or are subsequently created or acquired by or on behalf of such persons.

The Regulations do not require relevant persons to acquire or create information; only to retain information and samples they have created or acquired in the course of carrying out activities which are relevant to the fulfilment of the principal objective set out in section 9A (1) of the Petroleum Act 1998 or, where the relevant person is an offshore petroleum licensee, information or samples they have created or acquired in the course of carrying out activities under their licence.

The OGA expects operators, licensees, upstream petroleum infrastructure owners and owners of relevant offshore installations to acquire all the information and samples to meet all of their regulatory obligations, including, but not limited to, those necessary to carry out safe and efficient operations and to properly evaluate prospects and subsurface strata.

The OGA therefore does not specify a minimum information and samples acquisition programme for activities carried out under a licence (although the licence may include a work programme that includes a requirement to obtain specified information) but it reserves the right to enforce changes or enhancements to planned activities through consenting or approval processes.

As mentioned in the consultation, the OGA does not consider it either practical or desirable to set out every single information and sample type in the regulations themselves. The lists of types set out in the following sections are for indicative purposes only and any queries that relevant persons may have on particular types of information and samples should be discussed with the OGA at the earliest opportunity.

Regulatory Compliance

Requirements imposed by the Regulations may be sanctionable in accordance with Chapter 5 of the Act. Information on the OGA's sanction procedure is available on the OGA website [here](#)

3. Period for Retention

Relief through reporting

The Regulations state that, in most cases, where information or samples have been provided to the OGA in accordance with a notice issued by the OGA under section 34 of the Energy Act 2016, the obligation to retain that information will end. A section 34 reporting notice will specify the form and manner in which the information, or portion of a sample, must be provided and the time at which, or period within which, it is to be reported.

Ceasing to be a relevant person

For relevant persons who are offshore petroleum licensees, the requirement under the Act to retain information and samples ceases following a termination of rights under the licence (whether by transfer, surrender, expiry or revocation and whether in relation to all or only part of the licence). However, in accordance with sections 30 to 33 of the Act, before any of these licence events takes place an information and samples plan must be prepared and agreed with the OGA, and subsequently complied with. Such plans will provide for the effective transfer, reporting, retention, storage or disposal of information and samples, as appropriate, at the time when a licensee ceases to be a relevant person. Guidance on information and samples plans has been published by the OGA⁴.

For relevant persons who are not licensees, the Regulations apply while they are relevant persons. When such persons cease to be a relevant person (i.e. by relinquishing ownership of upstream petroleum infrastructure or other relevant offshore installation), the obligation to retain information relating to the upstream petroleum infrastructure or other relevant offshore installation is not applicable. The OGA intends to use its powers under section 34 of the Act to ensure that relevant information is reported prior to relinquishing ownership of infrastructure or installations.

Disposal notices

Under regulation 11 licensees are able to notify the OGA in accordance with their licence of their intention to dispose of certain samples, as detailed in the table in Section 6 below. Disposal notices should be sent to the OGA and should include information on:

- The name of the wellbore (including any aliases or synonyms) in relation to which the sample was acquired
- The type of sample
- The relevant depth (or interval) at which the sample was acquired
- Any other information relevant to the sample that the OGA might need when determining if it should be reported to the OGA or disposed of (i.e. formation)
- Notices should be sent to OGA.Techdata@ogauthority.co.uk

⁴ https://www.ogauthority.co.uk/media/4222/171002_oga-guidance-on-information-and-samples-plans.pdf

4. Form and Manner

The Regulations do not set out any requirements for the form and manner in which information and samples are to be retained.

The OGA will set out in the guidance supporting reporting notices under section 34 of the Act its specific requirements on the form and manner in which information and samples are to be reported.

5. Well Information

Regulation 4 requires relevant persons who hold an offshore licence to retain:

- engineering information related to the well or wellbore; and
- the information and analysis of the strata that the well or wellbore encounters (or is expected to encounter)

This includes information on equipment, material and components used (and how they are used) during the drilling, testing, completion for production, production, suspension, abandonment of the well or wellbore, i.e. the entire lifecycle. It also includes information about the position and path of the wellbore and its dimensions (such as hole and casing sizes, casing shoe depths, total depths).

In the case of strata, this includes all information created or acquired in the various disciplines used to evaluate the geology of the strata, fluids encountered and other properties of the strata. It is the final versions of such information that are required to be retained; in the planning phase, this will be the final geological and drilling programmes and in other phases of the well lifecycle it will be the finalised information relating to the wellbore as it was drilled, and will include any other future operations undertaken.

It is anticipated that much of this information will be in the form of reports created or compiled during or after drilling operations, and may contain information relating to engineering, operations and the geology of the strata. All reports produced for a licensee by a well operator and contractors engaged on any aspect of a well and its entire lifecycle must be retained, in addition to any summaries of those reports such as those included in the operator's End of Well Report.

The following table sets out a detailed list of the information that is routinely created or acquired by or on behalf of an offshore licensee for a well and is therefore what the OGA requires to be retained.

A “✓” in the table indicates a document, report or information type normally created or acquired in relation to the specified activity and must be retained.

Well Data Retention	Relevant Well Lifecycle Activity						Description and Comments
Document/ Information Common Name	Pre-drill, Drill +/-Complete	Complete	Workover	Intervention	Sidetrack	Abandon	
Planning and Pre – drilling information (final version)							
Authority for Expenditure, Partner consents, etc							Documentation to be retained. A summary in the Operator's End of Well Report would be adequate. These are not required under the regulations however they have been included for indication of best practice.
Geological/ Well Proposals	✓				✓		Providing basic details of well location, seismic structure, basic well evaluation, mud programme and well evaluation plan. May otherwise be included in geological and/or drilling programme.
Geological Programme	✓				✓		Describing the full structural geological setting, cross sections, stratigraphic column, well evaluation programme – (including coring, logging (wireline/LWD/MWD), Mud logging etc.), pore pressure and temperature profiles and other information from geological models, etc. Basic details of contractors, the well operator, and equity partners must also be retained. Alternatively, this may be included in Drilling Programme.
Drilling/ Operations Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Describing the planned design of the well/wellbore such as drill bit diameters, casing types, shoe depths, kick-off points, deviation, plug depths etc. May be combined with the Geological Programme, above.
Site Survey	✓						Report on rig site conditions, shallow gas, other hazards, bathymetry for the proposed well. Information arising from 2D shallow seismic surveys must be retained as specified in the geophysics section.
Rig Positioning Report (for mobile unit)	✓			✓		✓	Documents the actual siting of the rig.

Document/ Information Common Name	Pre-drill, Drill +/-Complete	Complete	Workover	Intervention	Sidetrack	Abandon	Description and Comments
Reports and Operational Information							
Daily (Operations) Reports	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	May be retained as separate reports, or as included in contractor Daily Operations Reports. Full reports must be retained in addition to any summary included in the End of Well Report.
Definitive Deviation Survey	✓				✓		The final, definitive deviation survey as approved by the well operator on behalf of the other licensees, including the finalised deviation survey data used as a positional reference for all the other data that requires positional referencing, and associated reports (including the deviation survey end of well report).
Casing/ Cementing End of Well Report	✓				✓	✓	Full reports must be retained in addition to any summary in the Operator's End of Well Report.
Mud Contractor End of Well Report	✓	✓			✓	✓	Full reports must be retained in addition to any summary in the Operator's End of Well Report.
LWD/MWD End of Well Report	✓				✓		Full reports must be retained in addition to any summary in the Operator's End of Well Report.
Mud logging End of Well Report	✓				✓		Report typically includes expected prognosis, drilling dynamics data, lithology and provisional formation tops, and includes associated logs (formation evaluation, ditch gas, temperature, pressure evaluation, etc.).
Core Operations Report	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Report from the coring contractor. Alternatively, may be included in the Operator's End of Well Report.
Biostratigraphy, Palynology, and Palaeontology Reports	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Typically provided by the contractor. Includes reports on palaeontological and palynological analysis activities, interpretations and conclusions. Will include zones, species listings and range charts, and includes report from wellsite services, where available.
Geochemistry Report	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Typically provided by the contractor. Includes details of methodology, results, and interpretations.
Conventional Core Analysis Report and Core photos	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Typically provided by the contractor. Details of conventional core analysis activity and results. Includes lithological descriptions, porosity, permeability, saturations, matrix densities, and core photos, typically referenced using driller's depths.

Document/ Information Common Name	Pre-drill, Drill +/-Complete	Complete	Workover	Intervention	Sidetrack	Abandon	Description and Comments
Reports and Operational Information							
Special Core Analysis (SCAL) report	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Special core analysis performed on preserved samples, including relative permeability data, capillary pressure test data, any other contractor derived data and results.
Sedimentology, Petrography, and Petrology	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Reports detailing rock properties determined by logging and/or facies descriptions of core.
Pressure, Volume, Temperature (PVT) and other Fluid analysis	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Details of measurement of phase behaviour and pressure/volume/temperature of reservoir fluids, as typically performed on samples from wireline well testing e.g. MDT, or drill stem testing.
Contractor Well Testing Reports	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Reports arising from drill stem tests or equivalent.
Other bespoke contractor reports (Engineering, Geological, Geophysical, Petrophysical)	✓ if performed	✓ if performed	✓ if performed	✓ if performed	✓ if performed	✓ if performed	Other specialist reports provided by various contractors, e.g. chemostratigraphy, goniometry on cores, etc.

Document/ Information Common Name	Pre-drill, Drill +/-Complete	Complete	Workover	Intervention	Sidetrack	Abandon	Description and Comments
Logs, Wireline Testing and Borehole Seismic Information							
Open hole Wireline	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Images and digital data arising from all logs run (includes gamma ray, sonic, density and neutron logs). All logs recorded using wireline, slickline, TLC pipe conveyed or coiled tubing tool conveyance methods.
Core data curves	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Including core gamma ray. Typically referenced to driller's depths, and used to adjust cores to wireline depths on the composite log.
Cased Hole and tubing Wireline	✓ if performed		✓ if performed	✓ if performed	✓ if performed	✓ if performed	Images and digital data arising from all logs run (includes cement bond logs and perforation logs).
Well Test/ Formation Test Logs				✓ if performed			Logs arising from formation testing tools (e.g. PLT, RFT, TDT, MDT etc.). May include details of samples collected.
Composite well logs	✓				✓		Image log with full well header information showing formation tops, chronostratigraphy, lithostratigraphy, lithologies, log curves, DST intervals, cored intervals (depth shifted), Sidewall cores, formation tester results, background gas, hydrocarbon shows casing depths, deviation data.
Joined well logs	✓				✓		Joined set of digital log curves spliced together over full depth range of wellbore. Typically used for correlation purposes it will be the most accurate and complete record of the main wireline and/or MWD measurements such as sonic, density, neutron and resistivity. Information on the processing of well logs, including a full audit trail, must also be retained.
Computer processed Interpretations (CPI)/ Petrophysical Data Log	✓				✓		Spliced, environmentally corrected log curves for use in petrophysical interpretation. Will normally be specialist curves not normally included in a standard composite log.
Borehole Seismic Data	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Includes reports and logs obtained as part of VSP profile, offset VSP, Velocity survey etc. All sonic/velocity and two-way time (TWT) logs including calibrated sonic and density logs and any derived calculations. Synthetic seismograms.
LWD/MWD Log Data	✓				✓		Data and measurements collected while drilling.
Borehole Imaging Data	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Includes dipmeter logs, borehole televiewer images, etc.
Wellsite Lithology Log	✓				✓		As provided by the wellsite geologist.
Wellsite Core Logs	✓ if performed				✓ if performed		Core descriptions as provided by the wellsite geologist.

Document/ Information Common Name	Pre-drill, Drill +/-Complete	Complete	Workover	Intervention	Sidetrack	Abandon	Description and Comments
Operator End of Well Reports							
Operator's End of Well Report	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Also known as the drilling report, End of Well Report or End of Job Report. Includes summaries of all contractor activities, and is generated at the end of each well lifecycle activity. Multiple reports may exist for a single well/ wellbore. Typically includes: LWD/MWD/Mud/Mud logging/ casing/cementing/surveys/ etc. plus final well schematic, lessons learned, cementing, mud logging summary, QC reports, well examiner certificate, and barrier pressure test summary. May contain a summary of daily drilling reports. Will also include all information required in a well abandonment report, essentially, the end of job/operational phase report.
Geological End of Well Reports	✓				✓		Includes final formation tops, stratigraphy, logging summary, coring summary, core depth shifts (driller to logger) where relevant. Samples collected, and fluid descriptions. Perforated intervals. Studies conducted. Formation pressures and gradients from Formation Pressure logs. May contain petrophysical interpretation with audit trail.
Petrophysical End of Well Report	✓				✓		Petrophysical Interpretation with audit trail if not included as part of the geological End of Well Report.
Perforation and Reperforation Reports and Logs	✓	✓	✓ if performed	✓ if performed	✓ if performed		Report on perforating and perforated or reperforated intervals
Well Schematic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The final (or most current) well schematic for the well as included in the drilling programme (as-is and planned) and in the End of Well Report, as submitted to WONS.

6. Samples

Regulation 10 requires an offshore production licensee to retain any petroleum related sample of strata or petroleum acquired during drilling.

The OGA requires the following types of sample to be retained:

- core samples
- core plugs
- drill cuttings
- sidewall cores
- oil and gas fluid samples
- micro-palaeontological microscope slides and preparations
- thin sections prepared from micro-palaeontological samples
- polished sections prepared from micro-palaeontological samples
- grain mounts taken from micro-palaeontological samples
- formation water samples

The Regulations set out retention obligations for samples of the strata and samples of petroleum acquired during the drilling of a well, which includes any coring or well testing taking place during drilling, subject to the limits below:

- a minimum of 1 litre of fluid samples are required to be retained
- a minimum of 100g per sample of drill cuttings are required to be retained (in addition to any reported to the OGA)

The following table sets out a detailed list of the types of samples that are routinely acquired by, or on behalf of, production licensees from drilling, coring and testing activities and therefore is required to be retained in accordance with the Regulations.

The period for which a licensee is required to retain samples is also indicated.

The OGA intends to issue guidance on the reporting of samples in support of the relevant section 34 reporting notice in force from time to time. However, because of the dependencies between the retention and reporting of samples set out in the Regulations, some notes on reporting requirements are included in the table below.

Samples				
Type	Description	Comments	Retention and Notice Period	Reporting Notes
Conventional Cores	Slabbed Core	Non-reported portion to be retained by licensee. This will differ depending on type of well and any specific use of individual core intervals.	5 years minimum from date sample acquired. Required notice to the OGA: minimum 6 months before intended disposal in accordance with the relevant licence.	Routinely reported as follows: exploration or appraisal wells: full longitudinal section (1/4 of diameter) development wells: full longitudinal section (1/2 of diameter).
	Resinated Core	Thin resinated slab to facilitate description.		Not routinely reported but may be required to be reported or retained on licence determination as set out in an information and samples plan (ISP).
	Core Plugs	Generally 1-2" long plugs for poroperm.		
	Plug Trims	Trimmed sections used for biostratigraphy etc.		
	SCAL/Preserved samples (full core width)	SCALS – waxed, flaked in brine or Oil Based Mud (OBM) etc.		
Drill cuttings	Washed and Dried	Non-reported portion to be retained from all intervals sampled.	5 years minimum from date sample acquired. Required notice to the OGA: minimum 6 months before intended disposal in accordance with the relevant licence.	Routinely reported as follows: no more than 100g of washed and dried samples
		Minimum 100g to be retained where collected from each sample (in addition to that reported to the OGA).		
	Unwashed samples	Bagged samples. One set retained in addition to the biostratigraphy set.		Not routinely reported but may be required to be reported or retained on licence determination as set out in an information and samples plan (ISP).
	Geochemical Samples	Tinned unwashed cuttings, with bactericide added, and stored inverted.		

Samples				
Type	Description	Comments	Retention and Notice Period	Reporting Notes
Sidewall cores	Sidewall Cores (Percussion)	Cores taken from side of borehole normally by (explosive) wireline tool.	5 years minimum from date sample acquired.	Not routinely reported following acquisition but may be required to be reported or retained on licence determination as set out in an ISP.
	Sidewall Cores (Rotary)	Cores taken from side of borehole normally by rotary drilled, wireline tool (can be used for poroperm analysis).	Required notice to the OGA: minimum 6 months before intended disposal in accordance with the relevant licence.	
Thin Sections and Grain Mounts	Micropalaeontology and palynological slides and preparations	All those prepared.	5 years minimum from date sample acquired. Required notice to the OGA: minimum 6 months before intended disposal in accordance with the relevant licence.	Not routinely reported following acquisition but may be required to be reported or retained on licence determination as set out in an ISP.
	Thin sections	Petrographic thin sections.		
	Polished sections	Petrographic polished sections.		
	Grain mounts	Resin mounted grains for used for further analysis.		
Fluid Samples (DST/MDT etc.)	Oil samples	Non-pressurised. No more than 1 litre.	No minimum retention period however notice must be given 6 months before disposal.	Not routinely reported following acquisition but may be required to be reported or retained on licence determination as set out in an ISP.
	Formation water samples	No more than 1 litre.		
	Gas samples			Not routinely reported following acquisition.

7. Geophysical Survey Information

Regulation 3 sets out the requirements for the retention of information relating to geological surveys, i.e. geophysical surveys. All data, whether acquired with passive sensors or with active physical methods using an artificial source and sensor or receiver is in scope of this regulation.

The OGA requires the following information to be retained:

a) Seismic data, both newly acquired or reprocessed, using both streamer (towed source and receiver array) or ocean bottom (where the receiver is placed on the sea floor) techniques, collected as part of a site survey, for exploration or development, or for any other purpose, as follows:

- 2D;
- 3D;
- 4D;
- Ocean Bottom Cable; and
- Ocean Bottom Node / Sensor

b) Other data that records the gravitational, magnetic and electrical properties of the Earth's subsurface (often referred to as potential field data). This includes:

- gravity data
- magnetic data
- induced polarisation data
- gravity gradiometry data
- electromagnetic data
- bathymetry data

Regulation 3 refers to the retention of 'relevant data', which is data acquired or created in the course of a geological survey. This includes information relating to the position of energy sources, and sensors during acquisition, data derived from processing of relevant data (where it is used to create an end result) and any reports relating to acquisition and processing. This means that the raw data, navigation data, processed data and reprocessed data (and any associated reports of the data), where available, which arise from remote sensing techniques, including geophysical surveys should be retained, including the following:

- the raw data acquired using the methods described above, including both the results obtained at the sensors (which may also include any group formed or final field produced data) and the associated navigational information describing the position of the sources and sensors at the times the measurements are taken;
- reports associated with the acquisition and processing (or reprocessing) of the raw data, as specified in the following tables
- datasets generated during processing (or reprocessing) of the raw data that are subsequently output as final products
- the version(s) of any datasets derived during processing of the raw data that are subsequently used in the creation of the final processed stack and migration data (i.e. not including any test or interim datasets that are not eventually used in the creation of the final processed data)
- final processed stack and migration data

Detailed Retention requirements

The following tables set out a detailed list of the information that is routinely created or acquired by or on behalf of an offshore licensee for a geophysical survey and therefore the OGA requires to be retained:

Table 1: Field Data from Seismic Surveys

Type	Remarks
Recorded trace data	
Raw navigation data	
Source-receiver navigation data	
Group formed or final field produced	Where partial processing has occurred during acquisition. Including de-ghosted data.

Table 2: Pre-Stack Data from Seismic Surveys

Type	Remarks
Pre-stack time migrated data	Raw and final PSTM gathers
Pre-stack depth migrated data	Raw and final PSDM gathers
Nav-Seis Merge Data	Source/receiver navigation data assigned to CMP positions
Stacking and Migration Velocities	As used in depth migration processing

Table 3: Post Stack Data from Seismic Surveys

Type	Remarks
Final Migrated Stack	The final migrated stack after full pre-stack processing
Final Migrated Stack after full pre-stack and post stack processing	Includes angle and offset stacks
All other post stack depth migrated volumes	Includes post stack time migrated volumes if created
Post stack time migrated volumes	If created as part of a PSDM project
Final Processed Navigation Data	Navigation and bathymetry data

Table 4: Reports

Type	Remarks
Acquisition, including QC Reports	Reports detailing the acquisition and quality checking of seismic surveys, including weekly reports and the final deliverables or outputs from surveys. These include shot point base maps and maps showing the full fold of coverage.
Field tape listings	
Observers Logs	
Processing Reports	Information on processing system and sequence, final products, input data etc.
Navigation reports	
Navigation QC reports	

Table 5: Other Geophysical Data

Type	Remarks
Gravity and Magnetic	All raw and processed and gridded data
Electromagnetic	Field data (both raw and calibrated), time series data, magnitude and phase data, traces (transient CSEM) and impedance tensor (MT)

8. Production Information

Production data from licensees and other relevant persons is reported to the OGA on a monthly basis by means of the Petroleum Production Reporting System (PPRS).

The information reported through PPRS is aggregated for the whole field and for the month of production in question. It includes volumetric information (i.e. the amount of petroleum, gas or other fluids produced or injected) and some high-level information on the composition of petroleum or gas (such as density or calorific value in the case of gas).

This information is derived from more detailed information gathered by the licensee from individual wells (either individually metered or allocated) and sometimes individual reservoirs. It is also gathered at more frequent intervals than the monthly information reported through PPRS.

Regulation 4 sets out requirements for the retention of this more detailed and higher frequency production information than is currently reported to the OGA on a monthly basis by means of the PPRS.

Where acquired, offshore licensees must retain information on:

- quantities of petroleum or any other fluid produced from or injected into a reservoir
- the composition or characteristics of petroleum or any other fluid produced from or injected into a reservoir
- quantities of gas which is produced from a reservoir which is flared, vented or used in or during production from that reservoir
- quantities of petroleum any other fluid produced or used in or during production from a reservoir which is transported from the petroleum field
- the composition or characteristics of petroleum or any other fluid produced or used in or during production from a reservoir which is transported from the petroleum field
- the composition or characteristics of gas produced from a reservoir which is flared or vented or used in or during production from that reservoir

This information must be retained by reference to the corresponding wellbore (and where such information is acquired, by individual reservoir) in relation to each period of 24 hours or more. Information collected on a more frequent basis (e.g. hourly or real time) is not required to be retained.

The term “any other fluids” includes, for example, water, CO₂ and N₂.

The OGA therefore requires the following information, where created or acquired by a licensee, to be retained for each wellbore, on a daily basis:

- produced volumes of hydrocarbons and any other fluids;
- injected volumes of hydrocarbons and any other fluids;
- temperature and pressure measurements from down hole gauges (including the depth of those gauges), and at the well head;
- the number of hours in the measurement period that the wellbore was open to flow
- compositions of hydrocarbons (and any other fluids) that have been produced or injected or used in production

9. Other Licence Information

Regulation 3(b) requires the retention of other information which can provide an insight into a licensed area, and which are not encompassed by the categories of data set out in Sections 5-8 above.

Such information includes the latest or final copy of any report from a study into the sub-surface in areas such as the geology of the strata, the structure of the reservoir, the chemistry of the petroleum, how the petroleum may behave in the reservoir, or how it may be trapped and migrated from source and includes studies that draw on varied information sources and are then synthesised into one study or report.

The OGA considers this to be any report not related to an individual well or survey, containing geological (including bio-stratigraphical), petrophysical, geophysical, geochemical and geotechnical information about the formations and fluids in the licence area including any analysis and/or interpretation of such information.

Regulation 4 (2) requires the retention of computerised models which either:

- provide a spatial representation of the distribution of sediment and rock in the subsurface, or
- simulate the flow of fluids in a reservoir

There may be many versions and updates of these models throughout the life of a licence (or fields within that licence), however the Regulations require only the most recent version to be retained. The OGA anticipates that the regular updates to such computerised model over the course of a licence will culminate in a final model which captures all the production history/ geology of the entire licence area in scope.

Documentation showing how these models have been created, including all input data and software versions used must also be retained. This means that the following information must be retained:

Information Type	Remarks
Computerised reservoir simulation models	The most recent or final reservoir simulation models together with supporting documentation on how these models have been created and input data used. These may be both static or dynamic models.
Computerised geological interpretations	The latest or final geological models together with supporting documentation on how these models have been created and input data used.
Subsurface and reservoir studies	Final copies of studies of reservoir information of the sub-surface including geology of the strata; structure of the reservoir; the chemistry of the petroleum; how the petroleum may behave in the reservoir, or how it may be trapped and migrated from source.
Geological studies	Final copies of reports containing geological information – including biostratigraphical, petrophysical, geophysical, geochemical and geotechnical information about the formations and fluids in the licence area including any analysis and/or interpretation of such information.
Multi well reports and field studies	Final copies of multi well studies or field studies containing interpretations of the subsurface.

10. Upstream Petroleum Infrastructure, Relevant Offshore Installations Information

Regulation 6 requires the retention of construction, maintenance, inspection, operational and decommissioning information created or acquired by the owners of upstream petroleum infrastructure or a relevant offshore installation.

The OGA considers this to be:

- information about the materials, equipment and components that are used in the infrastructure or installation, and how they are used during the construction, maintenance, and decommissioning of the infrastructure or installation
- information about the position and dimensions of the infrastructure or installation

References to “infrastructure” and “installation” mean “upstream petroleum infrastructure” and “relevant offshore installations” respectively as defined to in sections 9H and 9HA of the Petroleum Act 1998.

The OGA considers it would not be practical or desirable to specify every type of information that may be created or acquired by such persons.

However, the OGA expects owners of upstream petroleum infrastructure or a relevant offshore installation to retain all of the information required to in order to comply with its other legal obligations with respect to such infrastructure and installations.

The OGA does not require documents and drawings related to upstream petroleum infrastructure that has been completely removed and recovered to shore as part of decommissioning for permanent destruction to be retained.

This means the following information must be retained for upstream petroleum infrastructure and relevant offshore installations:

Information Type	Remarks
Basis of Design	The latest version of the basis of design for infrastructure and installations detailing the description and justification the design.
Design and Operating Philosophies	The latest version of reports detailing design and operating philosophies of infrastructure and installations including major process and utility systems.
Inspection Reports	The latest reports detailing the condition of installations and infrastructure.
General Arrangement Drawings	The latest version of plot plans, elevations' equipment layouts and general arrangement drawings of upstream installations and infrastructure.
Facilities Positional Data	Accurate facilities positional data describing the coordinates of infrastructure and installations.
Availability and reliability reports	Reports detailing the availability and reliability of infrastructure and installations.
Specifications	The latest version of specifications of major equipment and structures.
Marine documentation	Naval architecture reports, structural design reports, moorings reports, turret design reports and metocean studies for infrastructure and installations.

11. Pipeline Information

Regulation 5 requires that the following must be retained in relation to pipelines:

- any information relating to the occurrence, materials or components used in construction, operation, inspection, maintenance or decommissioning of the pipeline
- any spatial information or drawings relating to the pipeline as constructed and installed (including relating to any subsea junctions and riser connections)

Therefore, the OGA requires the following pipeline information to be retained:

Information Type	Remarks
Basis of Design	The latest basis of design for pipelines, including operating parameters, routing, risers, tie-ins, material selection, insulation, mechanical equipment, cathodic protection, construction, installation and commissioning.
Pipeline Inspection Reports and Surveys	The most recent pipeline inspection reports – including intelligent “pigging” reports indicating the condition of the pipeline and mechanical equipment. The most recent periodic surveys of pipelines such as surveys conducted by divers and remotely operated vehicles.
Pipeline as-built reports	Reports detailing the manufacture and installation of pipelines reflecting the as-installed condition of the pipeline, mechanical equipment, and associated structures such as risers, mid-water arches, junctions and buoyancy aids.
Pipeline drawings	The latest drawings showing pipeline general arrangements and routing – including subsea structures, crossings, junctions, deposits, cables and umbilicals.
Pipeline positional data	Accurate pipeline positional data.

12. Transition Arrangements

The categories of information and samples that are required to be retained by offshore licensees under the Regulations are also within scope of the offshore production licence model clauses.

The Regulations require relevant persons to retain petroleum-related information until such information is reported to the OGA in accordance with a notice issued under s.34 of the Act. The licence model clauses do not specify when such obligation to retain information ends. However, if information that is required to be retained under the terms of a licence is reported in accordance with a notice issued under s.34 of the Act, the OGA will consider the licensee to be relieved of its obligation to retain such information under the relevant licence.

The Regulations do not apply to determined licences or previously licensed areas which have since determined. The OGA may consider granting relief from the obligation to retain such information where it has been reported in accordance with PON 9 guidance.

The OGA intends to publish revised PON 9 guidance that is aligned more closely with the provisions of the Regulations.

When do the Regulations apply?

The Regulations apply to petroleum-related information and petroleum-related samples held by, or on behalf of, a relevant person at the time the Regulations come into force or created or acquired after that date.

13. Definition of terms

Term/Abbreviation	Description/Definition
2D	Two dimensional – meaning seismic data or a group of seismic lines acquired individually such that there typically are significant distance between adjacent lines.
3D	Three dimensional – meaning seismic data with closely spaced receiver and shot lines so that there usually are no significant gaps in the data coverage.
4D	Four dimensional – meaning 3D seismic data acquired at different times over the same area to assess changes in a producing hydrocarbon reservoir with time.
CSEM	Controlled source electro-magnetic
CMP	Common mid-point
D Well	Development well
DST	Drill stem test
FDP	Field development plan
HSE	The Health and Safety Executive
Petroleum-related information	As defined in Section 27 (1) of the Energy Act 2016
Petroleum-related samples	As defined in Section 27 (1) of the Energy Act 2016
Information and Samples Coordinator	As defined in Section 35 of the Energy Act 2016
Information and Samples Plan or ISP	As defined in Section 30 of the Energy Act 2016
LWD	Logging while drilling
MDT	Modular formation dynamics testing
MER	Maximising economic recovery
MT (remote sensing)	Magnetotellurics (impedance tensor)
MWD	Measurement whilst drilling

Term/Abbreviation	Description/Definition
OBM	Oil based mud
Offshore licensee	A holder of an offshore license
OGA	The Oil and Gas Authority
Pipeline	As defined in Section 45 of the Petroleum Act 1998
PLT	Production log test
PPRS	Petroleum production reporting system
PSDM	Post-stack Depth Migration
PSTM	Pre-stack time migration
PVT	Pressure, volume, temperature
QC	Quality control
Relevant person	A person listed under 9A(1) (b) of the Petroleum Act 1998
RFT	Repeat formation testing
SCAL	Special core analysis laboratory
SCALS	Special core analysis laboratory sample
TDT	Thermal decay time
TLC	Trough logging conditions
TWT	Two-way time
UKCS	United Kingdom Continental Shelf
VSP	Vertical seismic profile
E/A Well	Exploration or appraisal well
WONS	Well operations and notifications system

14. Contact

Any questions/comments related to this guidance, should be directed to **OGA.TechData@ogauthority.co.uk**

Any questions/comments related to information and samples plans should be directed to **isc@ogauthority.co.uk**

