

**Guidelines for E&P Operators for MoD Clearances in respect of Vessel deployment/ engagement, and Data.**

1. At least two or more months clear advance notice on commencement of exploration work be given to MoD through DGH so that the exploration work does not clash with any defence exercise in the area. Applications to be submitted to DGH atleast 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> months before for processing by MoD
2. Indian Companies should preferably be deployed for surveys. Should foreign companies be deployed, prior approval of Ministry of Defence be obtained and data be collected under supervision of Ministry of Defence and Indian representatives/ responsible Licensee Officials, who shall ensure appropriate security safeguards.
3. **All vessels deployed in the area by contracted companies shall undergo naval security inspection under the aegis of the FOC-in-C of the concerned Naval Command, Flag Officer, Offshore Defence Advisory Group (FODAG) prior to their deployment.** As per norm, one month's notice is to be given to facilitate clearance/ inspection.
4. Without approval of the Union government raw data cannot be imparted to foreign contractors and the same should be processed in India.
5. **Mandatory Requirement :-** A copy of all data collected during Survey/exploration shall be forwarded to Naval Head Quarters (MoD) and Chief Hydrographer, Dehradun free of cost, by the licensee within 2-3 weeks of completion of survey and a copy of compliance be submitted to DGH.
6. **Vessels deployed shall engage in only bonafide activities. No physical oceanographic observations or seabed studies will**

**be undertaken by parties without specific clearance of Ministry of Defence.**

7. For development of new roads and tracks related to exploration activity, prior sanction of Ministry of Defence will be obtained.
8. Intimation regarding award of contracts to parties and details shall be forwarded to Naval headquarter (Directorate of naval Intelligence) Ministry of Defence suitably in advance of operations by the licensee submitting work programme at least for 6 months on vessels deployment by operating companies.
9. The contracted companies shall ensure that all foreign personnel on board vessel have been duly cleared by Ministry of Home Affairs and immigration authorities and clearance documents produced to the naval inspection authorities.
10. The licensee shall strictly adhere to the relevant provisions and notifications under Environment Protection Act, 1986 and Forest Conservation Act, 1980 as amended from time to time.
11. Licensee shall take all precautionary measures for safety and security of all vessels/rigs deployed for exploration activities.
12. For issuing Marine Safety warning the licensee shall immediately inform the following to the FODAG and the Chief Hydrographer, Dehradun, with a copy to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons:

“Locations indicating coordinates of all rigs/vessels deployed at particular location and thereafter its new locations as and when it moves to that location.”
13. Licensee shall execute a separate license deed in respect of other covenants, terms and conditions as per the prescribed format.

**IHQ MoD (Navy) is authorized to give clearance in the following manner for the Category 1 and Category 2 vessels. All vessels deployed will follow the following instructions strictly**

**All Category 1 vessels shall be cleared by IHQ of MOD (Navy) and Category 2 vessels in respect of E&P Operators and other agencies shall be cleared by the respective Command HQ/HQ ODAG as per details given below:-**

- a) **Category 1 Vessels.** These shall comprise GOI Department Vessels with foreign participation, all Semi-Private Party Vessels, Private Party Vessels and Foreign Vessels engaged in any form of Research, Survey, Exploration and Exploitation activities in the Indian maritime Zone under an instrument of contract, agreement or and understanding with the Govt of India or a Department or an office under the GOI; and whose activities fall under the purview of the MOD Guidelines 1996 (as amended from time to time). Category 1 Vessels, shall further include all Rigs, Non-Research and Non Survey Vessels flying foreign flag, crewed by foreigners and with foreign ownership; engaged in support of Research, Survey, Exploration or Exploitation tasks/cable laying or any other activities in the Indian Maritime Zone. Inspection of such vessels shall be scheduled by IHQ of MOD (Navy).
  
- b) **Category 2 Vessels.** These shall comprise Non-survey vessels (viz MSV, OSV, AHT, Tug, Boat, Dredger, Diving Tender and Tanker), barges, drilling ships/rigs and Floating Production Units of Indian Registration, Indian Ownership with fully Indian Crew and flying an Indian Flag engaged for the purpose of providing support for E&P activities such as site survey, safety and environment survey, transportation of crude oil & gas and other support activities related to platform construction, pipeline repair, drilling support, logistics support and Inspection, Maintenance & Repair (IMR) support; and not involving foreign participation in any manner whatsoever. Govt. of India Department vessels engaged in Research, Survey, Exploration and Exploitation activities **without any form of foreign participation**

shall also fall in this category. Inspection schedule of vessels under this category shall be decided by respective Command HQ/HQ ODAG in accordance with the MOD Guidelines 1996. Naval/Integrated Command/FODAG are to keep MOP&NG and DGH informed of all such clearances along with the conditionalities imposed – MOP&NG for ONGC deployed vessels and DGH for all private Operators.

- c) **Replacement of Breakdown Vessels.** In case of an emergency breakdown, replacement of Category 1 vessel shall be permitted after being duly recommended by the Command HQ/FODAG. For this purpose, 48 hours notice will need to be given to IHQ of MOD (Navy). Detailed application as in a normal case is to be submitted for such a vessel, within seven days of the breakdown, for post action scrutiny and regularization. Likewise, replacement of Category 2 vessels will be approved by Command HQ/FODAG as required. Whenever a breakdown takes place, the clearance for that breakdown vessel when replaced by another vessel shall cease. It shall have to apply afresh, if it is required to be re-deployed.
- d) **Intra-Block / Intra-Area / Inter-operator Operations.** Operators as per the contract are required to inform the MOP&NG of shift from the one block/area to another. Hence status quo is to be maintained. However, faster clearance will be given if requests are communicated on time. Naval security inspection of Category 2 vessels having valid security clearance under previous Command Headquarters may be dispensed with, when shifting from one coast to another coast and operating with the same operator provided that the Operator informs both the Commands and HQ ODAG accordingly and the Command Headquarters under whose area the vessel has shifted to, is satisfied that a Naval Inspection as required by MOD Guidelines 1996 is not required.