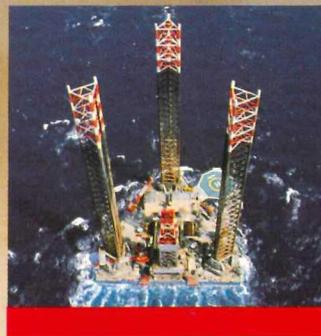


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**GUIDELINES
FOR PREPARATION
AND SUBMISSION
OF SAFETY
CASES**

Department of Primary Industries and Energy
Petroleum and Energy Policy Division
Canberra

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JANUARY 1995

Australian Government Publishing Service
Canberra

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ISBN 0 644 35259 0

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Foreword

The establishment of new national arrangements for safety in the offshore oil and gas industry through the National Safety Case Working Group represents a shared vision between all concerned interests — the petroleum industry, employees, employers and Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments — to develop a national approach to offshore safety.

The development of the National Safety Case Guidelines forms a key element underpinning this new co-regulatory approach to Australian offshore safety involving government regulators and industry. Their development along with a national data base and ongoing tripartite review, should see even further improvements to an already excellent safety record.



These guidelines may be used by operators to assist in identifying, assessing and controlling risk in the offshore oil and gas environment. The inclusion of assessment procedures used by government regulators provides further detailed knowledge of what will be considered in determining the adequacy of an operators' safety arrangements.

I would like to thank those people and organisations involved in the production of these guidelines and to indicate the Commonwealth Government's strong support for this important initiative. The guidelines have been endorsed by the Australian and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'David Beddall'. The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial 'D'.

DAVID BEDDALL
Minister for Resources
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

SAFETY CASE

PREFACE AND CONTENT

PREFACE

OVERVIEW OF THE SAFETY CASE REGIME

The safety case regime is a form of co-regulation between government regulators and operators of petroleum leases or permits. Developed in response to the findings of the Consultative Committee on Safety in the Offshore Petroleum Industry (COSOP), the safety case regime promotes the development of, and continual improvement in, safety in the offshore oil and gas industry. An overview of the regime is presented in figure 1.

LEGISLATION

The *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967* [P(SL)A] controls all offshore oil and gas exploration and production in Commonwealth waters. The Act is supported by a series of objective-based directions/regulations which stipulate the standards to be achieved by the operator.

Through section 9 of the P(SL)A, provisions of the relevant State and Territory Occupational Health and Safety Acts and regulations also apply.

One of the P(SL)A objective-based regulations—the Safety Case Regulation—requires operators to submit a safety case.

Therefore, to demonstrate compliance with the legislative objective, operators must provide evidence that they have an effective integrated Safety Management System (SMS) in place that identifies, assesses, eliminates and/or manages risk at the facility.

The written safety case, once formally accepted, becomes a form of co-regulation between government regulators and operators.

ROLE OF THIS DOCUMENT

These guidelines provide non-mandatory guidance to operators of offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation facilities for the preparation and submission of safety cases.

The document also serves as a guideline for the Designated Authority (DA) administering the Commonwealth P(SL)A by providing a semi-structured methodology for assessing safety cases.

MEASURING SAFETY CASE PERFORMANCE

Once an operator has submitted a safety case and the various consents have been issued, the performance of the operator's SMS will be measured by indicators such as incident/accident data, and results of legislative compliance audits and complaints.

Information from these sources along with State/Territory and national accident data collated in a national database will be used by the DAs to determine the elements of the operator's SMS that should be checked or audited against the agreed safety case.

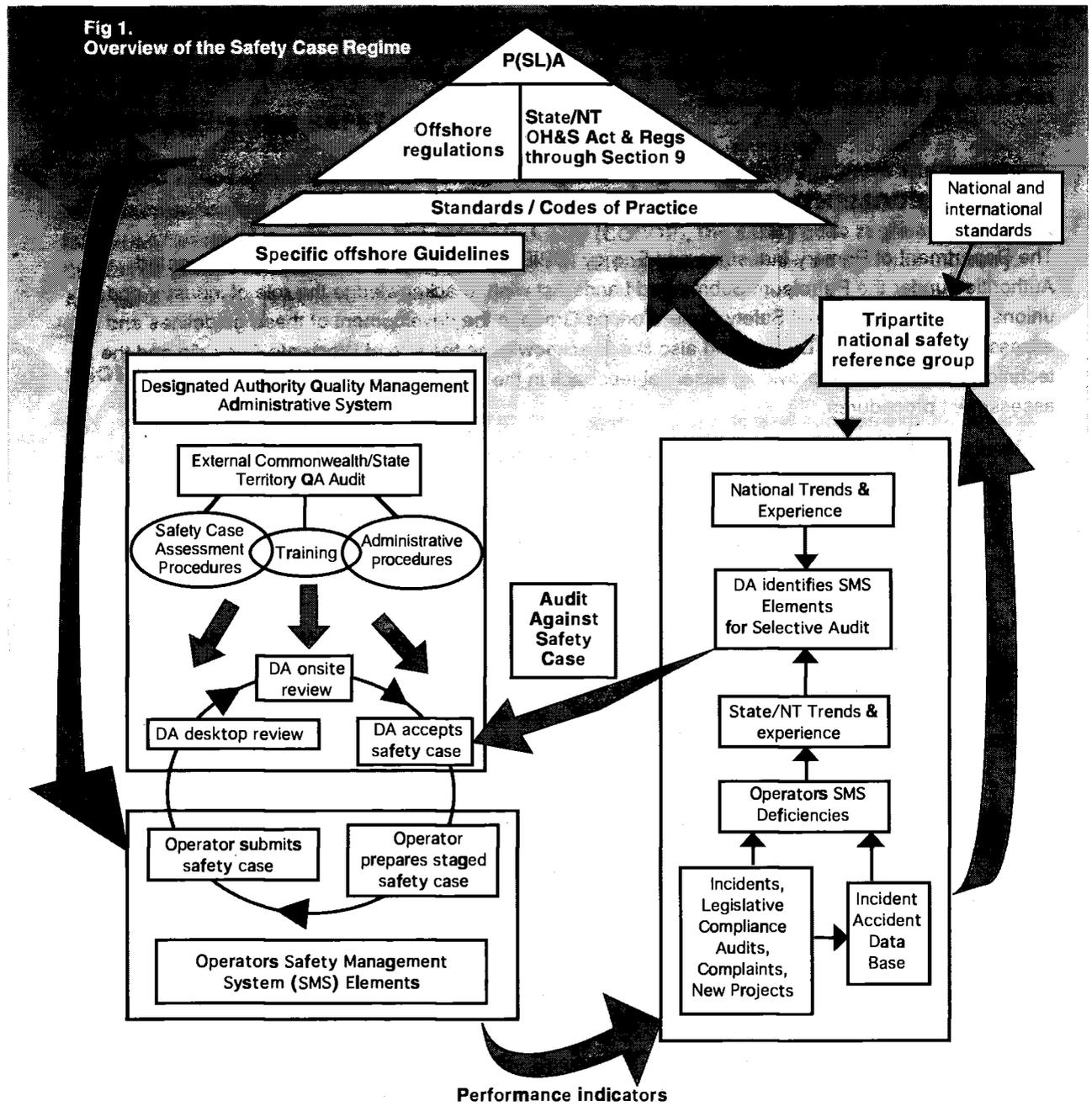
TRIPARTITE REVIEW

These guidelines will form part of a continually improving safety regime. A tripartite group will meet on an annual basis to review these and other guidelines supporting the regulations in the light of new national and international experience.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Department of Primary Industries and Energy (DPIE) and the State and Territory Designated Authorities under the Petroleum Submerged Lands Act wish to acknowledge the role of industry and unions through the National Safety Case Working Group in the development of these guidelines and assessment procedures. DPIE would also like to acknowledge the role of Worksafe Australia and the technical review team in providing essential feedback in the development of these guidelines and assessment procedures.

Fig 1.
Overview of the Safety Case Regime



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