



MEMBER COUNTRY PROFILE

Country:	Republic of Ireland
Organisation:	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
Regime Scope:	<p>The CRU is the safety regulator for upstream (offshore and onshore) petroleum exploration and extraction activities in Ireland.</p> <p>The CRU's responsibility is to provide effective safety regulatory oversight and reduce the risk and potential consequences of major accidents offshore to a level that is as low as is reasonably practicable.</p> <p>This is done through assessing Safety Cases, issuing Safety Permits and monitoring compliance through an audit and inspection regime. The CRU may carry out enforcement in instances of non-compliance with the Safety Case.</p>
Administering Agency /Arrangements:	The CRU is an independent Statutory Agency under the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA). The CRU is governed by three Commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
Legislation Type:	<p>The CRU must comply with the <i>Electricity Regulation Act 1999</i> as amended.</p> <p>The <i>EU Offshore Safety Directive 2013/30/EU</i> was transposed as the <i>Petroleum (Exploration and Extraction) Safety Act 2015</i> and an accompanying Statutory Instrument.</p>
Extent of Government Approval:	<p>Any person carrying out a designated petroleum activity must submit a Safety Case to the CRU for acceptance. Following this, the CRU may issue one of the following Safety Permits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Well Work Safety Permit• Production Safety Permit• Non-production Safety Permit• Decommissioning Safety Permit



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Nature of Duties Imposed:	<p>The CRU has adopted a goal-setting regime, the Petroleum Safety Framework. Under this Framework, it is the CRU's role to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foster and encourage safety in petroleum exploration and extraction activities;• Actively monitor & enforce compliance of petroleum undertakings, operators and owners with their obligations;• Develop a regulatory framework that promotes continuous improvement of safety; and• Work with other authorities to achieve our vision.
Physical Objects in the Regime:	<p>Two offshore fixed installations with 153km of offshore pipeline. One onshore installation with 83km of offshore pipeline.</p> <p>There is typically one mobile offshore drilling unit in Irish waters on an annual basis.</p>
Assurance Mechanisms:	<p>CRU has a number of appointed Petroleum Safety Officers to carry out incident investigations and ensure ongoing compliance.</p> <p>The CRU carries out at least one inspection on each permit holder annually to ensure compliance with the Safety Case. Robust enforcement actions will be carried out by the CRU where non-compliances are identified.</p>
Financial Basis:	<p>Funds are acquired through an annual Petroleum Safety Levy Order and Safety Case Fees.</p>
Environmental Regulation Responsibilities:	<p>Although the CRU is the Competent Authority for the purposes of the EU Offshore Safety Directive, environmental and financial liabilities are overseen by the DCCAE.</p>
Oil Spill Response:	<p>The Irish Coast Guard reviews both the Oil Spill Contingency Plan and Emergency Response Plan on behalf of the CRU. These plans must be accepted by the Irish Coast Guard before a Safety Permit can be issued by the CRU.</p>
Transparency:	<p>Guidance documents regarding Safety Permits, Levies, Compliance and Enforcement, Petroleum Incidents and Co-operation arrangements are available to the public through the CRU's website (www.cru.ie). All Safety Permits are published once issued.</p>



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	In accordance with the <i>Freedom of Information Act 2014</i> , the CRU and information obtained by CRU may be released as part of a request made under that Act.
Research:	None
Profile Date:	April 2019