

MEMBER COUNTRY PROFILE – THE NETHERLANDS

Country:	Netherlands
Organisation:	State Supervision of Mines (SSM)
Regime Scope:	<p>Exploration, production, transport and storage of natural resources onshore and offshore. The scope includes geothermal energy, salt extraction and offshore windmills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervision is focused on safety, health, environment and production efficiency.
Administering Agency /Arrangements:	State Supervision of Mines is an independent agency reporting to the Minister of Economic Affairs.
Legislation Type:	<p>All National laws (including decrees and regulations):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">MiningWorking ConditionsWorking HoursEnvironmentalGoodsWater SupplyMetrologyGasNuclear <p>All applicable EU Regulations (the EU offshore Safety directive 2013/30/EU are transposed in the relevant National legislation)</p>
Extent Of Government Approval:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Permits required for geophysical operations- Permits for exploration and exploitation- Approval for Reports on Major Hazards, development plans, drilling activities, new pipelines, decommissioning plans- Permits for the use of production chemicals and for certain drilling activities- Environmental permit for the use of an installation
Nature of Duties Imposed:	Hybrid regulatory approach; combination of prescriptive and goal-setting legislation and goal-setting with use of industry standards
Physical Objects in the Regime:	<p>Platforms, drilling rigs, types of marine vessels, pipelines, terminals, sub-sea completions, activity basis, other high hazards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- +/- 150 fixed offshore installations

- +/- 600 onshore mining locations
- +/- 5 MODUs, 5 land rigs
- Offshore 2500 km of high pressure (75 bar) pipelines and 1500 km of onshore pipelines
- 5 Offshore wind farms in operation, 4 under development
- 124,000 km low pressure (<16 bar) gas distribution pipelines

Assurance Mechanisms:

Government inspectorate SSM on behalf of the:

- Ministry of Economic Affairs for mining;
- Ministry of Social Affairs & Employment for working conditions;
- Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment for environmental

Third party reviews (design, fabrication, and installation) are required for all offshore mining installations and pipelines. Review by workforce: governed by Works Council legislation, social security regulations and working times law.

Financial Basis:

The SMM budget is partly funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, approved on an annual basis. The remainder is recovered through charges for SSM supervisory activities.

Environmental Regulation Responsibilities:

Environmental issues related to on- and offshore mining activities are dealt with by State Supervision of Mines on behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.

Oil Spill Response:

The primary responsibility for Oil Spill Response coordination lies with the Operator. Every operator must submit an 'Oil spill contingency plan'. If required, 'RWS-Zee en Delta', an agency of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, will take over the coordination in liaison with the Dutch Coastguard and SSM. The coordination of an oil spill is embedded in the 'Incidentbestrijdingsplan Noordzee' (Incident Response Plan North Sea). In case of a serious incident scenario in which an offshore mining installation is involved, SSM will be in accordance with the Incident Response Plan North Sea, take part in the Inter Departmental Policy Team.

Transparency:

Through the SSM website www.sodm.nl; annual reports, newsletters, presentations, safety bulletins, news updates and presentations are published.

Research

"Knowledge Effects Mining" research project. This includes a number of different studies e.g.: mechanisms and effects of induced seismicity; studies on the use of the subsurface for storage purposes/ studies on aspects of the life

cycle of platforms / supervisory arrangements for ageing
platforms / gap analysis of well integrity standards / adequacy of
well hardware barriers.

Profile Date: January 2020