

Member Country Profile – The Netherlands

Country:	Netherlands
Organisation:	State Supervision of Mines (SSM)
Regime Scope:	SSM is the supervisor agency for the exploration, production, transport and storage of natural resources onshore and offshore. Supervision is focused on safety, health and environment. SSM also supervises geothermal wells, salt extraction, offshore windmills and underground storage (oil, gas, nitrogen, carbon dioxide). This profile describes the role of SSM in exploring and developing oil and gas.
Administering Agency/ Arrangements:	State Supervision of Mines is an independent agency reporting to the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.
Legislation Type:	On mining installations SSM supervises all National laws (including decrees and regulations): <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Mining•Working Conditions•Working Hours•Environmental•Goods•Water Supply•Meteorology•Gas•Nuclear
Extent of Government Approval:	SSM advises the Ministry on all permits required for exploration and exploitation. SSM approves Reports on Major Hazards and the use of “mining” pipelines (pipelines between mining installations). SSM issues permits for the use of production chemicals and for certain drilling activities.
Nature of Duties Imposed:	The mining law specifies that companies have a general duty to take all necessary measures to prevent negative impact on safety, people and the environment. A combination of prescriptive and goal-setting legislation is implemented. (Inter)national standards and industry standards are used where applicable.
Physical Objects in the Regime:	Offshore installations (+/- 150), onshore oil and gas installations (+/-300). On-, and offshore mobile drilling units, subsea wells, on-, and offshore pipelines and the mining activities on pipe laying vessels, lifting vessels, diving or other support vessels.
Assurance Mechanisms:	SSM conducts inspections and audits to verify adherence to legislation. For the different laws, different enforcement instruments are available. SSM also uses the results of third party reviews. Third party reviews (design, fabrication, and installation) are required for all offshore mining installations and pipelines.
Financial Basis:	The SSM budget is partly funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, approved on an annual basis. The remainder is recovered through charges for SSM supervisory activities (retribution).

Environmental Regulation Responsibilities:	Environmental issues related to on- and offshore mining activities are dealt with by SSM on behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.
Oil Spill Response:	The primary responsibility for Oil Spill Response coordination lies with the Operator. Every Operator must submit an 'Oil spill contingency plan". In case of a serious oil spill an agency of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, can take over the coordination in liaison with the Dutch Coastguard and SSM. The coordination of an oil spill is embedded in the Incident Response Plan North Sea. In case of a serious incident in which an offshore mining installation is involved, SSM will in accordance with the Incident Response Plan North Sea, take part in the Inter Departmental Policy Team.
Transparency:	SSM informs the public via its website www.sodm.nl , via newsletters, presentations, safety bulletins, news updates and presentations. SSM's annual reports are sent to parliament. SSM meets with its stakeholders on a regular basis and participates in meetings to inform the public on mining activities.
Research:	The Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs has initiated a public Knowledge Program on the Effects of Mining . Goal of this program is to enhance the understanding of the hazards and risks of mining activities in The Netherlands. This involves a range of different studies e.g.: on the 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, etc.
Profile Date:	January 2023