



Oil & Gas
Authority

Flaring and venting

OGA policy position

OGA policy position: Offshore flaring and venting

Objective

To ensure consistency of the OGA's offshore flaring and venting regime with MER UK and wider government policy, including emissions targets, by eliminating any unnecessary or wasteful flaring and venting of gas throughout the lifecycle of a petroleum installation and relevant facilities such as terminals.

The OGA will:

- Issue consents for flaring and venting of gas on an extant licence throughout the project lifecycle.
- Review all flare and vent consent requests to ensure the flare and vent volume requested is at a level that is technically and economically justified.
- Require operators to execute their operations in a proper manner in accordance with methods and practice customarily used in good oilfield practice.
- Encourage applicants to engage with the OGA at the earliest opportunity if any events, planned or unplanned, have led to, or are expected to cause, breach of consent.
- Require, consistent with the objective of this policy, technical and economic justification prior to approval of consent amendments due to unplanned events.
- Take appropriate steps to ensure a stable system of regulation; this may include the use of financial penalties through the OGA sanctions regime.
- Request applicants to engage with BEIS OPRED when requesting an increase to a flare or vent consent for sustaining production over a fixed duration during unplanned events.
- Support industry in the development of best practice.

The OGA will not:

- Normally issue a flare or vent consent that does not serve the objective of this policy.

When taking consent decisions, the OGA will consider:

- All appropriate data and evidence submitted to the OGA in support of a flare or vent consent request.
- At the field development plan stage, whether alternative uses for the gas have been considered.
- At the field development plan stage, whether the best application of technology has been considered.
- The historic performance of the operator and installation against flare and vent consents.



Oil & Gas Authority

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