

Safety in the U.S. Offshore Energy Industry



The U.S. offshore energy industry follows the toughest safety & environmental standards in the world.

The offshore energy industry strives to meet the goal of zero incidents and zero spills. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is an important partner in this endeavor. Strong communication between BSEE and industry can inform regulators of the newest and best technologies and practices and help ensure that new rules increase safety and environmental protections.

Between 2007-2017, the number of BSEE safety inspections has increased, while the number of safety incidents, spills and injuries has fallen:



Source: BSEE.gov

*99.998% of all oil produced in the U.S. OCS is produced with no spills.

The Center for Offshore Safety (COS) was created to promote the highest level of safety for the offshore energy industry.



Among other goals, COS has pursued implementation of Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS), which enable independent third-parties to provide audits of individual company SEMS, improving compliance with BSEE regulations. SEMS dates back to 1990 and the National Research Council Marine Board. Today (and five Presidential Administrations later), SEMS shows how a strong dialogue between regulators and industry strengthen safety and environmental practices.

The are four principal SEMS objectives:

- To focus attention on the influences that human error and poor organization have on accidents;
- Continuous improvement in the offshore industry's safety and environmental records;
- Encourage the use of performance-based operating practices; and
- Collaborate with industry in efforts that promote the public interests of offshore worker safety and environmental protection.

Source: centerforoffshoresafety.org

