



SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

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COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Oil Pollution Action Committee	Contact Gibraltar Port Authority as above
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RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

Responsibility for oil spill response in Gibraltar falls to the Oil Pollution Action Committee (OPAC). This Committee consists of representatives of the Port Authority, the Queens Harbour Master (QHM), the Fire Brigade, the Environment Agency and the bunkering industry. However, a new national contingency plan currently under development proposes an additional higher executive cell at Governmental level to provide overall strategic control of spill response operations in the future.

Lines of national jurisdiction are ambiguous and it is likely that authorities of Spain would assist in the event of any serious pollution threat.

RESPONSE POLICY

The primary response strategy within the Bay of Gibraltar is the application of dispersants. In the Harbour, response options focus on containment and recovery. No formal dispersant policy is in place, although this is under development as part of the new contingency plan. As a result, there is no approved list of dispersants, although it seems likely that this would follow United Kingdom guidelines.

The disposal of oily waste and recovered oil is a significant problem for the authorities due to the lack of appropriate landfill sites and refineries in which to recycle suitable waste. The development of a comprehensive disposal strategy is under discussion as part of the contingency planning process.

EQUIPMENT

Government & Private

Stocks of specialised oil spill response equipment located in Gibraltar are essentially limited to those maintained by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and that on board bunkering barges operating in the harbour. The MoD stock consists of a small amount of boom and skimmers, while the bunkering vessels operating in the port are required by law to maintain a small length of boom on-board. The Fire Department and resident oil companies also maintain small stocks of anti-pollution equipment.

Gibraltar is a city-state member of Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) in Southampton, UK. As such, it is able to call on resources and equipment of this organisation to assist in any major incident.

Gibraltar does not possess an aerial surveillance capability unless a Royal Navy vessel with a helicopter on-board happens to be in port at the time.



PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

Small operational spills do occasionally occur in port. Two tankers PETRAGEN ONE and CAMPONAVIA (1995) were involved in a fire and explosion at the San Roque Refinery in Algeciras, Spain. The incident resulted in the release of Heavy Fuel Oil, small amounts of lubricating oil and quantities of Naptha and Gasoline. While the later two were burnt off in the resulting fire some floating oil did require clean-up from the Gibraltar authorities.

CONVENTIONS

Prevention & Safety					Oil Spill Response	Compensation					
MARPOL 73/78		Annexes III IV V VI			OPRC '90	CLC '69 '76 '92			Fund '71 '76 '92		
✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓

* not yet in force

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Gibraltar is not a party to any regional agreements.

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