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GP 10-36

Breaking Containment

Group Practice

**BP GROUP
ENGINEERING TECHNICAL PRACTICES**

Introduction

The introduction to this ETP mirrors section 21 of the revised DWOP.

All activity on a completed well that requires containment to be broken shall conform to Engineering Technical Practice GP 10-36 – Breaking Containment

1 Breaking Containment

1.1 Prior to breaking containment of any well control equipment such as the removal of a tree, BOP or any component, there shall be two independent mechanical barriers to flow fitted in all wells, capable of sustaining flow to surface

- In each flow path there shall be two independent mechanical barriers isolating flow from the reservoir to surface
- In an offshore environment, each flow-path shall be isolated with one of the barriers installed below the seabed

1.2 Mechanical barriers shall be tested to the highest pressure to which they will be subjected. The two barriers shall be independently tested. Where practicable, these tests should be applied in the direction of flow. Where not practicable, the barrier should utilise seal design that permits verification from either direction.

- Tested mechanical barriers require to be confirmed as leak-tight.

1.3 Kill weight fluid may be used in place of one of the two mechanical barriers before breaking containment, if the well design or condition precludes the use of two independent mechanical barriers in each flow path, and the kill weight fluid meets the following criteria:

- Sufficient quantity of fluid may be placed in the wellbore to ensure that the fluid hydrostatic pressure exceeds the highest reservoir pressure
- The fluid level may be monitored and maintained throughout the period that the containment has been broken

1.4 These policy statements apply equally to tree valve repairs where the principle of double valve isolation shall be adhered to. (In an offshore environment, where wells are already fitted with an operable DHSV, there is no requirement to fit a barrier below the seabed as long as double valve isolation is intact).

1.5 A downhole safety valve that has been satisfactorily integrity tested for 30 minutes without leakage may be considered a barrier following the agreement of the SPU EA.

2 Pressure Control Equipment (PCE) Rig Up

2.1 Leak tight isolation, using two or more valves, shall be used to allow for the removal of the tree swab cap or any other wellhead valved isolation.

- a. Provided each valve meets an acceptable test criterion a combination of valves may be used to provide a leak-tight seal prior to removing a tree swab cap or any wellhead part.



- b. The practice of continually venting between the two isolation barriers is acceptable practice provided that it does not contravene local regulations and the vent is attended throughout the activity.

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