

and Installation of Electrical Systems for Offshore Production Platforms that is currently incorporated by reference into MMS regulations in 30 CFR 250.114. The proposed rule will also incorporate by reference into MMS regulations at 30 CFR 250.114, for the first time, the provisions of API RP 14FZ. The provisions of 30 CFR 250.114 apply only to platforms, artificial islands, fixed structures, and their facilities. Therefore, any requirements for floating facilities in these two documents will not apply. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and the United States Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Department of Transportation, dated December 16, 1998, the USCG is responsible for electrical systems on floating facilities. Additionally, according to the MOU, the USCG is responsible for aids to navigation, emergency lighting, survival craft, and general alarms, so any such references in these two documents do not apply.

We have reviewed these documents and have determined that the latest editions of both documents should be incorporated into the regulations to ensure the use of the best available and safest technologies. The title of API RP 14F has been changed in the Fourth Edition to conform with API RP 500, Recommended Practice for Classification of Locations for Electrical Installations at Petroleum Facilities Classified as Class I, Division 1 and Division 2, which is currently incorporated into MMS regulations. Our review shows that the changes between the old (Third) edition and the new (Fourth) edition are minor. Most of the changes apply to floating facilities, and are, therefore, not part of this rulemaking for the reasons cited above. In addition, the Third Edition is not readily available to affected parties because it is out of print. The oil and gas industry is already building new structures in accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Edition of this standard. Also, the Fourth Edition has been revised using an API standard editorial format.

Summary of the Changes in the Fourth Edition of API RP 14F Pertaining to Platforms, Artificial Islands, Fixed Structures, and their Facilities

In the fourth edition of 14F several subsections that were contained in the third edition have been consolidated in a subsection titled Protection Techniques Related to Equipment Installed in Locations Classified as Division 1 and Division 2. These include explosion proof equipment,

hermetically sealed devices, intrinsically safe devices, nonincendive equipment, and purged enclosures. No new requirements were imposed.

In the fourth edition of 14F, cable-shielding considerations have been added to the Electrical Distribution Systems section. This allows for the installation of metal clad cables in lieu of sealed conduits for electrical wiring. The use of metal clad cables could result in savings to industry of up to 40% over the use of sealed conduits and conventional wiring practices. Both methods of cable shielding provide for equal safety.

Subsections have been added to the fourth edition of 14F to cover advances in technology in battery-powered DC supply systems (uninterruptible power supplies), electric oil-immersion heaters, cathodic protection, and hand held electronic devices. These four new subsections cover equipment that is now in standard use on OCS structures, but that was not in the early 1990's when the third edition was completed. These new subsections should not impose any new costs on the industry, since operators are already using this equipment.

Review of API RP 14FZ

The two recommended practices addressed by this rulemaking are nearly identical. The original version (14F) is to be used with the electrical classification system contained in API RP 500. This system of electrical classification differentiates locations by "Divisions." This document (API RP 500) is already incorporated by reference into the regulations. A similar document, API RP 505, Recommended Practice for Classification of Locations for Electrical Installations at Petroleum Facilities Classified as Class I, Zone 0, Zone 1, and Zone 2, is also currently incorporated by reference into the regulations. This system classifies hazardous locations by "Zones" based on how long a hazardous vapor is present. The new 14FZ document is to be used with API RP 505. The difference between the two pairs of documents, 14F/500 and 14FZ/505, is that 14F/500 uses two "Divisions" to classify hazardous areas while 14FZ/505 uses three "Zones" to define these classified hazardous areas. The 14F document defines techniques for protection from fires in the Division system. The 14FZ document defines protection techniques in the Zone system for hazardous locations. Both systems provide for safe work environments for personnel. The protection techniques identified for the Division system are not all acceptable for the Zone system, and vice versa. The

Zone system identifies more protection techniques than the Division system, however, both systems have proven their safety by comparisons of both systems through the National Electrical Code, Factory Mutual, and Underwriters Laboratories. The operator could realize cost savings if the Zone system (505/14FZ) is used in classifying and designing electrical systems. We are proposing to incorporate the new API RP 14FZ to complete the set of documents in the regulations, and give lessees a choice in installing electrical systems. The incorporation of API RP 14FZ will not impose any additional costs on the industry, since it is nearly identical to API RP 14F and may result in cost savings. The operators must use one set of documents or the other to design and install electrical systems on their facilities. The costs for complying with the documents are similar. We're merely giving the industry a choice in regard to classifying and installing electrical systems under the API RP 500 system or the API RP 505 system.

Procedural Matters

Public Comments Procedure

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by the law. There may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by the law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address you must state this prominently at the beginning of the comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Background

This proposed rulemaking will update one document that is currently incorporated by reference in the regulations and will add another document to those incorporated by reference in the regulations. The differences between the Third Edition and the Fourth Edition of API RP 14F are very minor. The minor differences will not cause a significant economic effect on any entity (small or large), and may result in cost savings due to the inclusion of metal clad cable. In fact, the