



OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES
ON THE USE OF
OIL SPILL DISPERSANTS AT SEA

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FOREWORD

In 2001 the Institute of Petroleum published a guidance document entitled *Planning for the use of oil spill dispersants*. This formed the third edition of the IP's guidance on oil spill dispersant use and was updated to include recent advances in research and development on dispersant application and also considered the concept of Net Environmental Benefit Analysis.

In producing the above guidance, which is primarily aimed at managers involved with planning for the use of dispersants as part of response to an oil spill incident at sea, it became clear that there was a lack of available guidance on dispersant application aimed at those operating on the ground during an incident. The intent of this document is to fill that gap, and provide guidance for those making decisions at the operational level.

It continues the series of guidance documents on different aspects of oil spill contingency planning issues produced by the Institute of Petroleum's Oil Spill Work Group. A full list of related IP publications is at the end of this document.

Whilst the adoption of these guidelines will assist in combating oil pollution at sea with dispersants in an efficient manner, the Energy Institute (formerly the Institute of Petroleum) cannot accept any responsibility for injury to persons or damage to or loss of property however arising out of, or in conjunction with, the application of these guidelines.

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These guidelines are based largely on a document prepared by the Cawthron Institute for the Maritime Safety Authority in New Zealand. That document was targeted specifically at the use of dispersants in New Zealand and included the relevant national and regional protocols. In this document, the guidelines have been adapted to make them of more generic use when considering the use of dispersants as part of an oil spill response strategy. The permission of Leigh Stevens to use his original document is gratefully acknowledged.

This document was produced on behalf of the Energy Institute (formerly the Institute of Petroleum) by Mrs Jenny Corps of AEA Technology. The project was steered through the IP's Oil Spill Work group, membership of which is listed below:

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