

COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Contact details are as for spill notification point.

RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

Indian Coast Guard is the designated national authority for oil spill response in Indian waters under the National Oil Spill-Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP). Under the Plan, responsibility for coordinating a response is vested in the regional commanders for their area and jurisdiction. There are three response centres - in Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair reach with qualified personnel and a well stocked inventory of response equipment. Limited capabilities exist with the Coast Guard at Kochi and Vadinar on the west coast.

Oil handling facilities and offshore installations would be expected to handle Tier-I incidents and respond to spills in their designated area. However, the Coast Guard can take over the operation, if the spill were beyond the capability of the facility concerned or where the response capability has not been developed. The Coast Guard would coordinate with various resource agencies during a response, as laid out in the NOS-DCP. The three regions have individual contingency plans to deal with spills in their area. The NOS-DCP is regularly updated.

Beach and shoreline clean up is allocated to the pollution control boards of respective coastal states and the port authorities in port areas. The Coast Guard would provide assistance as required.

RESPONSE POLICY

The preferred response policy is mechanical recovery. The Coast Guard insists on prior approval for the use of dispersants. The eco-sensitivity of the areas is normally taken into consideration before dispersant use can be

CONVENTIONS

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

* not yet in force

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENT

Regional Contingency Plan sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the UN Clean Seas Programme is near finalisation. The countries

authorised. It is desirable that the dispersants are tested and certified by the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa for use in Indian waters. National guidelines for the use of dispersants are being prepared by the Coast Guard. Bioremediation and in-situ burning arrangements are in their initial states.

EQUIPMENT

Government

The Coast Guard inventory consists of containment, recovery and dispersant equipment of different capacities, including both aerial and vessel-based systems. Some port facilities and oil companies have also developed limited capabilities for oil spill response. The Coast Guard aims for all ports, facilities and offshore installations to have a Tier 1 response capability.

Private

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has a stock of booms and dispersant at Bombay and several supply vessels equipped with ship-board spray systems/boom and skimmer for offshore response to spills from their oil fields off the coast of Bombay

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

The Coast Guard has experience in response activities based on incidents, regular exercises and involvement in related activities. There have been 12 spill incidents so far where the Coast Guard has undertaken response actions in Indian waters, including the MV LAJPAT RAI in Bombay Port (1984) and MV PUPPY (1989) which occurred offshore but lead to shoreline oiling. Oil from MAERSK NAVIGATOR spill in 1993 was monitored by Coast Guard aircraft and treated with dispersant from a Coast Guard cutter.

that would be covered by the agreement are India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. The Plan envisages mutual cross border assistance and movement of equipment and personnel for response to an oil spill.