

Frequently asked questions

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What are the key messages to communicate to my team?

Safety is our number one priority and a core value, and we deeply care about the safety of our people. Nothing matters more.

In BP Upstream, on an average day, around 80% of our workforce are contractors. Contractors are often the ones working closest to potential hazards. They may work for BP one week and another operator the next. This means continually having to adapt to different sets of safety rules, which can be confusing.



We're standardising to save lives

The International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) has developed a set of industry-standard Life-Saving Rules that BP upstream and a number of other contractor companies and operators are implementing.

The rules are based on an analysis of industry fatalities and IOGP estimates that since 2008, 376 lives could have been potentially saved by following the new Life-Saving Rules.

We believe that by moving to the Life-Saving Rules, we will help our front-line workforce – both employees and contractors – understand and collectively apply some simple and consistent actions they can take to help prevent fatalities.

We firmly believe that working together as an industry will make us safer.

There is no change to our underpinning BP requirements

As part of the implementation plan, BP's Golden Rules will be retired in Upstream. Both the Golden Rules and the Life-Saving Rules are communication tools that emphasise key actions to keep front line workers safe. There are some differences in emphasis but there is no change to our underpinning BP requirements in OMS.

What are the rules?

The Life-Saving Rules are a set of standard rules across the oil and gas industry that are intended to help our front-line workforce – both contractors and employees – understand and collectively apply some key actions to help prevent fatalities.

Designed for the entire industry, the rules are simple actions (the 3-5 things workers must do to keep themselves and others safe as they undertake a task), and are observable actions to help with speak up and interventions.

The rules are grouped into 9 themes:



Bypassing Safety Controls



Hot Work



Confined Space



Safe Mechanical Lifting



Line of Fire



Work Authorisation



Driving



Working at Height



Energy Isolation

Under each theme, there are some simple actions. For example, under Driving – I always wear a seatbelt, I do not exceed the speed limit and reduce the speed for road conditions, I do not use phones or operating devices while driving – and I'm fit, rested and fully alert while driving.

[Find more information on each rule here](#)

Why is BP upstream adopting the rules?

Safety is our number one priority and a core value, and we deeply care about the safety of our people. Nothing matters more.

In BP Upstream, on an average day, around 80% of our workforce are contractors. Contractors are often the ones working closest to potential hazards. They may work for BP one week and another operator the next. This means continually having to adapt to different sets of safety rules, which can be confusing.

We believe that by moving to an industry standard set of Life-Saving Rules, we will help our front-line workforce – both employees and contractors – understand and collectively apply some simple and consistent actions to help prevent fatalities.

The new rules are part of a wider effort to eliminate fatalities in our industry. The rules are based on an analysis of industry fatalities and IOGP estimates that since 2008, 376 lives could have been potentially saved by following the new Life-Saving Rules.

Who do the rules apply to within BP?

The Life-Saving Rules are designed for the front-line workforce – and will apply to both employees and contractors in Upstream, primarily those in our Operating Functions (GOO, GWO and GPO).

The Life-Saving Rules will not apply to BPX or other BP Segments.

The contractor workforce in Upstream is different than in other parts of BP in some regards – and there is no plan to implement Life-Saving Rules elsewhere in BP at this time so the Golden Rules will remain in place for other parts of BP.

When do the rules come into force?

Our new projects in GPO will be early adopters of the rules in 2019 as we prepare for the change across Upstream.

The plan is to launch the new rules in each region, at a time determined by the region. For several regions, this will be the first quarter of 2020, some will launch later in the year. Until the Life-Saving Rules launch in your region, please continue to use BP's Golden Rules.

All related document and system updates are on track to be completed by Q4 2020.

Who developed the rules and how?

The International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP) developed the Life-Saving Rules as part of a wider effort to eliminate fatalities in the industry.

An IOGP task force, made up of operators and contracting companies, developed the rules by analysing industry fatality data reported to IOGP and learning from the implementation of similar sets of rules in member companies.

IOGP estimates that since 2008, 376 lives could have been potentially saved by following the new Life-Saving Rules.

The Life-Saving Rules are not intended to address all risks and hazards in the oil and gas industry – but draw attention to potential higher-consequence activities and the life-saving actions. For further information [read the IOGP report](#).

How do the Life-Saving Rules differ from BP’s Golden Rules?

Both the Golden Rules and the Life-Saving Rules are communication tools that emphasise key actions to keep front line workers safe.

The Life Saving Rules are simpler and written more directly to the worker, there are some differences in emphasis, but there is no change needed to our underpinning BP requirements to align with the Life-Saving Rules.

Seven of the nine Life-Saving Rules align to the Golden Rules activities with differing levels of detail.

There are two Life-Saving Rules that do not map directly to any Golden Rules. These are Line of Fire, and Bypassing Safety Controls.

Golden Rules	Life-Saving Rules	Change
Permit to work	Work Authorisation	Same intent, same requirements
Confined space entry	Confined Space	Same intent, same requirements
Working at heights	Working at Height	Same intent, same requirements
Energy isolation	Energy Isolation	Same intent, same requirements
Lifting operations	Safe Mechanical Lifting	Same intent, same requirements
Driving safety	Driving	Same intent, same requirements
Hot work	Hot work	Same intent, same requirements
Ground disturbance	-	Elements included in work authorisation, confined space and working at height
-	Line of Fire	New standalone rule
-	Bypassing Safety Controls	New standalone rule

Ground Disturbance is not included as it is in the Golden Rules. Is this missing?

Ground disturbance is not included as it is not as prominent in the IOGP fatality data as other activities. However, BP recognises the importance of continuing to manage and mitigate the risk of ground disturbance and so we will continue to carry out these group disturbance activities under the Work Authorisation, Confined Space and Working at Height Life-Saving Rules.

Also, the Group Practice for Control of Work (GDP 4.5-0001) and Upstream Procedure for Control of Work (100340) set out specific requirements for controlling activity that includes ground disturbance. These will not change with implementation of the Life-Saving Rules and will continue to be applied to this activity.

Are BP's requirements changing?

No, the implementation of the Life Saving Rules does not change our OMS requirements. Like the Golden Rules, the Life-Saving Rules are communication tools to emphasise key requirements within OMS.

The rules are not designed to replace management systems, policies, safety training programmes, operating procedures, or work instructions, and in fact rely on this framework being in place.

What is changing in BP to support the roll-out of the rules?

It's not a big change from a system and procedures point of view as the Life-Saving Rules are similar to the Golden Rules, and our OMS requirements do not change.

However, the roll out of the rules is an important opportunity to continue to heighten awareness of hazards, which is particularly important given safety is and continues to be our first priority.

IRIS will be updated so that the Life-Saving Rules can be tagged to Safety Observation Conversations (SOCs), incidents and planned events, to enable us to analyse data and to understand if interventions need to take place. The changes to IRIS are scheduled to be completed in 4Q 2020.

Our control of work procedure covers the hazards that the Life Saving Rules help protect against, but a minor update will be made to emphasize the Line of Fire hazards. Additionally, we intend to update our site safety standards to incorporate the rules in our toolbox talk discussions.

Why change when we already have similar rules?

According to IOGP, in the oil and gas sector, over 80% of the workforce and around 80% of fatalities, are contractors. Contractors are often the ones working closest to the hazards. They may work for BP one shift and another organisation the next. They are required to learn numerous process requirements for each client, even though the operating practices, activities, and risks are fundamentally the same.

We need to work together as an industry, and that means doing the same thing in the same way wherever possible. If we all have different Life-Saving or Golden Rules, then contractors, who do 80% of our work, must learn multiple ways of doing the same thing – apart from being inefficient and confusing, it introduces risk as workers struggle to remember which process they are supposed to follow.

An industry-standard set of rules will help to:

- increase awareness and ownership of critical safeguards that prevent fatalities
- take a step towards an industry-wide common safety language
- make it easier to implement and use the rules consistently across operators and contractors
- increase industry benchmarking, sharing of knowledge and lessons learned
- save time and costs on training workers

What happens with the Golden Rules?

BP's Golden Rules will be retired in Upstream. Until the Life-Saving Rules launch in your region, please continue to use the Golden Rules.

How do I use the Life-Saving Rules?

Please refer to the Life Saving Rules regularly – some obvious opportunities would be during the planning, executing and reviewing of work; within toolbox talks and safety conversations; risk assessments and during site walkabouts and observations.

The rules are observable actions to help with speak up and interventions. Everyone has the authority and is expected to stop work and intervene if they observe a Life-Saving Rule not being followed or indeed any unsafe activity.

What if I see someone who is not following the rules?

Please intervene first if it is safe for you to do so and report it to a manager. Everyone has the authority and is expected to stop work and intervene if they observe a Life-Saving Rule not being followed or indeed any unsafe activity. Yours may be the last opportunity to stop someone from suffering a serious, life-changing injury or fatality. If the unsafe act persists, escalate immediately to the person in charge of the work or other members of site leadership.

If a rule is not being followed, it is important to understand why and embrace the learning and improvement opportunity. Understand why people did what they did, what conditions and environment drove the non-conformance and identify and apply lessons learned.

What happens if a Life-Saving Rule can't be followed?

Do not start the activity until it can be confirmed the actions within the Life-Saving Rule can be followed. If, during a task or activity, you realise the rule cannot be followed, stop the job, call a supervisor and carry out a risk assessment to put in place appropriate controls to make the task safe to complete.

Can we change the icons and wording of the Life Saving Rules?

No. The idea behind the Life-Saving Rules is that they are standard and recognisable as consistently applied industry Life-Saving Rules, so the icons or the wording are not to be altered in any way.

I'm an operations leader, what am I expected to do?

Leaders have clear accountabilities to support people to be able to follow the rules. The Life-Saving Rules have a lot of 'I' statements so there is a focus on personal accountability for the front-line worker. However, that does not reduce the important role a leader plays in helping to manage or oversee safety.

- Make sure your team understand the rules, what is changing and what stays the same
- Refer to the rules regularly with your team in your day to day work
- Set clear expectations that work must not start unless the rules can be followed – and reinforce that anyone can stop work or intervene if a rule is not or can't be followed
- Verify whether the workplace conditions are set up to enable workers to follow the rules (e.g. certified anchor points for all work at height; vehicles with seatbelts etc) – and take corrective steps if needed.
- Encourage your team to attend any relevant training and participate in team discussions on the rules and related hazards. More information on this will be provided.



How do the rules differ from our safety leadership principles?

Our Upstream safety leadership principles apply to everyone across Upstream. They outline how we work together to recognise safety problems and deal with them, the behaviours we expect everyone to take, and guide what we do and the decisions we make every day. [Read more here.](#)

The Life-Saving Rules are designed for front-line workers in our operations. They are industry standard rules that outline the specific actions a worker can take to help prevent fatalities.

Where can I find more information?

- [Speak with your Life-Saving Rules regional lead](#) or your Upstream HSE manager.
- [Visit the Life-Saving Rules page on the Upstream intranet](#)
- Visit the IOGP website: www.iogp.org/life-savingrules/