



State Supervision of Mines
Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Climate Policy



Supervision on healthy and safe working conditions for offshore wind farms

State Supervision of Mines

Jessica van Swigchem

Sectormanager Offshore Wind



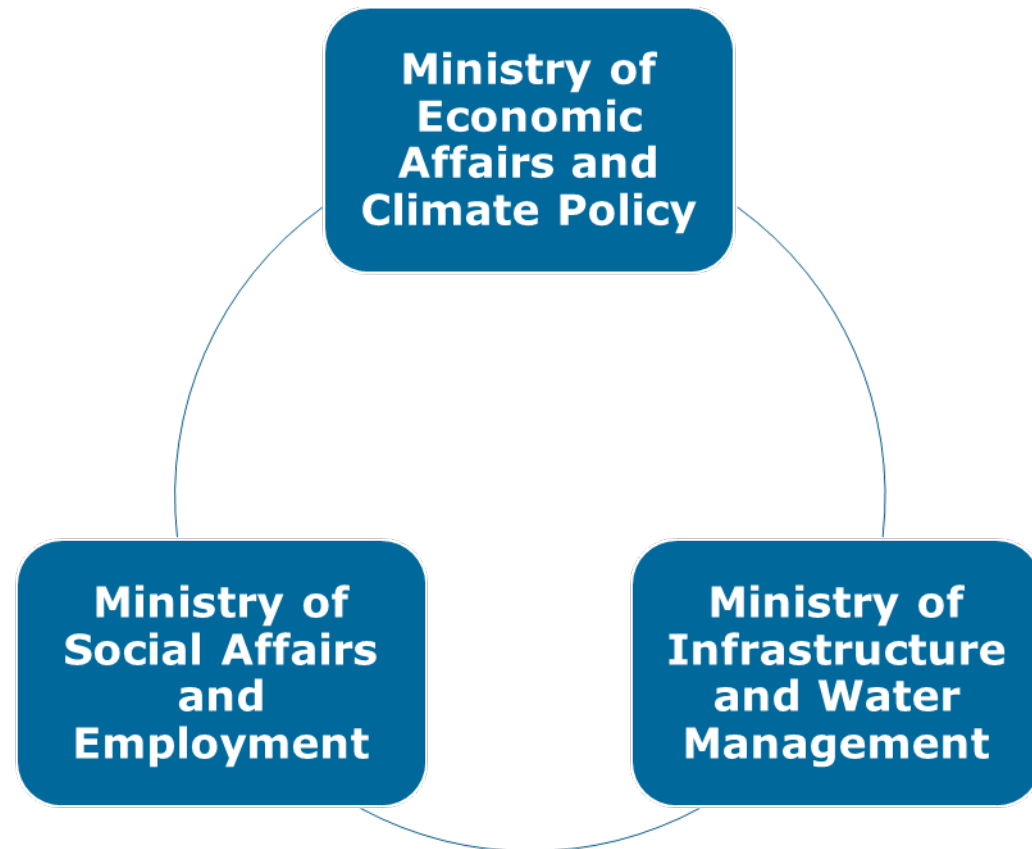
State Supervision on Mines

Wind energy is no mining sector...

Mission statement:

The State Supervision of Mines (SSM)

prioritises the safety and security of the population and protection of the environment in energy production and the exploitation of underground resources,
now and in the future.





Supervised sectors by SSM

... in energy production and the exploitation of underground resources:

- Groningen – earthquakes
- Oil & gas, onshore & offshore
- Geothermal energy
- Gas networks
- Windenergy@sea
- Salt mining
- Underground storage





Supervision of offshore wind energy

SSM supervises compliance with the following laws and regulations

1. Jointly responsible with Rijkswaterstaat:

- Offshore Wind Energy Act (Wet windenergie op zee)
- Water Act (Waterwet)

2. On behalf of the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW):

- Working Conditions Act
- Working Hours Act
- A number of Commodities Act Decrees with regard to the safety of products for the professional market.

Furthermore supervision of wind farms by the Coastguard and the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT)



Risks for healthy and safe working conditions

- Offshore Wind Energy: Current State (2019)

Describes the risks in the wind energy sector for health and safety of workers and protection of the environment

- Based on international statistics (G+), risks are:

- marine operations
- hoisting and lashing
- working at a height and climbing
- transferring between vessel and turbine
- high voltage

- Focus on good communication among personnel, due to the multiple nationalities of the workers and the wide variety of (sub)contractors



Challenges (Offshore Wind Energy: Current State)

- To maintain the good track record on health and safety offshore;
- The rapid scaling up of the sector provides an excellent opportunity;
- The desire to cut costs can sometimes be inconsistent with this;
- Keep the risks associated with the envisaged growth, technological development and competition under control;
- Avoid concessions in terms of safety in the field of design, maintenance, operations, and follow-up.



Regulations to promote safe and healthy working conditions

Base for safe and healthy working conditions in all phases of the wind farm:

- Prevention
- Cooperation
- Good preparation



Prevention

1. Assessment of threats and risks associated with the construction of this specific wind farm
2. To make choices in the design phase in such a way that dangers and risks in later phases can be avoided. Choices regarding technology, organization and architecture
3. Limiting the remaining risks as much as possible
4. Provide preconditions that make it possible to create safe and healthy working conditions. Examples: good planning, coordination, enough time and money



Cooperation

Responsibilities of the involved parties

→ *Concurrent danger (samenloopgevaar): working simultaneously or consecutively*

1. The license holder/client appoints coordinators for the design and construction phase.
2. The license holder/client has to ensure the coordinators can perform their duties properly.
3. The coordinator provides the preconditions and information, for example consultation between parties, making appointments, giving information.
4. Every employer remains fully responsible for its own employees.



Good preparation

- › **Health & safety-report and –file (V&G-rapport en –dossier)**
- › **→ *all relevant information that is important in following phases***
- › Insight into all visible and invisible hazards
- › Overview of arrangements to take away these hazards
- › Think carefully about safety aspects, good planning prevents accidents
- › The license holder/client is responsible
- › The coordinator of the design phase prepares the report and file



Supervision SSM

1. Regular supervision on vulnerable moments in every phase of the wind farm
2. Theme inspections focused on a specific topic
(for example hoisting and lashing, constructive safety, emergency plans)
3. Incident investigation
(this could also be a notification of a possible Covid-19 case)



Working Hours Act

- › Difficulties getting corona-free working forces offshore (oil & gas and wind energy sectors)
- › SSM granted exemption of 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off because of corona
- › For wind energy sector: 6 weeks on, 6 weeks off until July
- › Evaluation by SSM and complaints to the trade union → 3 weeks on, 3 weeks off until October
- › Conditions on the SSM website. Important: on a voluntary base



Supervision SSM on working hours

Inspections on working regimes due to corona:

1. Check of the working hours and working regimes
2. Check on compliance with the conditions, especially: Is the voluntary base guaranteed? Is it by the contractors? What is the position of the client/license holder?



State Supervision of Mines
Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Climate Policy



**Thank you
for your attention**

State Supervision of Mines

Jessica van Swigchem

Sectormanager Offshore Wind

