

1.14 BONN EXERCISES

1.14.1 Principles of Exercises

The Contracting Parties have agreed:

- (i) to endeavour to carry out regular exercises in order to strengthen the operational co-operation in pollution combating operations within the framework of the Bonn Agreement;
- (ii) that exercise programmes for intersessional periods shall be agreed by the Contracting Parties at plenary meetings; and
- (iii) to inform one another about bilateral or multilateral exercises concerning combating of pollution at sea in which one or more of the Contracting Parties have participated. This information should contain a short note on the exercise as such, in particular if special problems have been analysed, as well as lessons identified from the exercises with particular emphasis on matters of interest for the other Contracting Parties to the Bonn Agreement.

1.14.2 Procedures for alarm exercises

To avoid conflict with exercises undertaken in the Helsinki Convention and the Copenhagen Agreement, the Contracting Parties have agreed that alarm exercises in the Bonn Agreement should only be carried out in the months of March, June, September and December.

To identify exercise traffic, the text of all messages (both to and from the lead country) shall begin with the words:

EXERCISE BONN AGREEMENT

All messages shall end with the words:

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

At the end of each exercise, the lead country shall send a final "END OF EXERCISE" message to all Contracting Parties.

1.14.3 Exercise report

On finalisation of an exercise within the Bonn Agreement, the lead country shall prepare a brief report on lessons identified for the following OTSOPA meeting. The report is similar to the reports on live operations.

The report should as a minimum cover the following items:

1.14.3.1 Preparation of exercise

A short description of how the exercise was prepared - relevant references

1.14.3.2 Implementation of exercise

- (i) Date and period of exercise
- (ii) A brief description of how the exercise was initiated

1.14.3.3 Participating Contracting Parties

Names of participating Contracting Parties with a description of participating units from each Contracting Party.

1.14.3.4 Running and finalisation of exercise

Under this heading a brief description of the following items should be given:

- scenario and training requests;
- command;
- communications;
- finalisation of exercise;
- the efficiency of the border crossing arrangements and arrangements for transportation of equipment; and
- exercise reports from participating Contracting Parties.

1.14.3.5 Comments of participating Contracting Parties

A brief summary of comments received from each participating Contracting Party. Only comments on important matters should be mentioned.

1.14.3.6 Conclusion

A general conclusion from the lead country's point of view on lessons identified. Suggestions and recommendations on how to improve exercises in the future.

Tables, statistics or figures can be added as necessary under each item as annexes following the main document.

The exercise report should be presented to the next meeting of OTSOPA and subsequently to the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

1.14.4 Guidelines for joint exercises in co-operation in combating spillages on the sea within the North Sea area

Within the BONN Agreement, the following types of joint exercises in co-operation in combating spillages into the sea (BONNEX) have been agreed upon:

- Alarm exercise (BONNEX BRAVO)
- Equipment exercise (BONNEX CHARLIE)
- Operational exercise (BONNEX DELTA)

1.14.4.1 Alarm exercise - BONNEX BRAVO

The aim of this exercise type is to test the agreed procedures and lines of communication for reporting, requesting and providing assistance, and to get a picture of the current response readiness of the Contracting Parties to calls for assistance.

The exercise further aims at familiarising the personnel with the use and national handling of the adopted POLREP reporting form.

It is not the intention with this exercise that combating equipment nor its handling personnel should be activated.

When receiving an Exercise POLWARN, the participating Contracting Parties should record time of receipt, time of transmission to the responsible national authority and time for the receipt of the POLWARN by the person responsible for initiating further national action.

When receiving an Exercise POLINF/POLFAC, in addition to the time recorded as for POLWARN, the participating Contracting Parties should e.g. make a realistic evaluation of types and amount of equipment as well as personnel at their disposal for rendering assistance called for as well as the estimated time of arrival at the scene of the accident.

After termination of each exercise, the Contracting Parties should submit a report containing the aforementioned times and evaluations, as well as a description of the management structure during the event, to the lead country for the drafting of the Exercise Report with the aim of having this report presented and discussed at the first following meeting of OTSOPA and subsequently to the meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The lead country should notify the deadline for submission of the report from each Contracting Party and the address to which the report should be sent when sending the end-of-exercise message.

The BONNEX BRAVO takes place without notice within a specified period of time, and the participants in the exercise are not notified of the incident before the exercise takes place.

The BONNEX BRAVO can be carried out between all the Contracting Parties and the arrangement and initiation of the exercise are undertaken by a designated lead country.

1.14.4.2 Equipment exercise - BONNEX CHARLIE

The purpose of this exercise is to test the co-operation between combating units of the Contracting Parties with respect to both communication and equipment. It is intended to involve staff authorities only to a very limited extent.

The BONNEX CHARLIE is carried out between two (or more) Contracting Parties with bordering response regions.

Notice about time and event is to be given well in advance of the exercise and Contracting Parties not taking part in the exercise and the Secretariat shall be invited to send observers to the exercise.

Reports on the exercise should be sent to the lead country for the drafting of the Exercise Report (see 1.14.3) with the aim of having this report presented and discussed at the following meeting of OTSOPA and subsequently to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The BONNEX CHARLIE is arranged and carried out after direct consultation between the Contracting Parties involved and following the lead country principle.

1.14.4.3 Operational exercise - BONNEX DELTA

The aim of this exercise type is partly to test the alarm procedure, the response capability and the response time of the Contracting Parties, partly to test and to train the staff functions and the co-operation between combating units of the Contracting Parties.

Due to the complexity and the characteristics on the individual exercise, no guidelines are issued and the responsibility for planning lies with the lead country.

1.14.4.4 Costs

Unless otherwise decided, each participating Contracting Party are responsible for own expenses for planning and implementing the various exercises.