



Decree Law No. 4 of 1977 on Preserving Petroleum Resources 4 / 1977

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We, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Deputy-Emir of the State of Qatar;
Having perused the [Amended Provisional Constitution](#), in particular Articles [22](#), [23](#), and [34](#) thereof;
[Emiri Order No. 3 of 1977](#) pertaining to the appointment of a Deputy Emir to the State of Qatar;
Law No. 5 of 1970 pertaining to determining the jurisdictions of the ministers and the functions of the ministries and other governmental bodies and the amending Laws thereof;
[Law No. 13 of 1971](#) pertaining to the Structure of Courts of Justice and the amending Laws thereof;
[Law No. 14 of 1971](#) promulgating the Qatar Penal Code;
[Law No. 15 of 1971](#) promulgating the Criminal Procedures Code;
[Law No. 16 of 1971](#) promulgating the Law of Civil and Commercial Articles;
[Decree Law No. 10 of 1974](#) pertaining to the establishment of Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (Qatar Petroleum);
[Decree No. 102 of 1976](#) pertaining to the establishment of Qatar Authority for Oil Production;
The proposal of the Minister of Finance and Pe

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Article 1

In applying the provisions of this Decree-Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each, unless the context requires otherwise:

“Petroleum (oil)” means all the natural hydrocarbon materials in a solid, liquid or gaseous state produced, or that can be produced, from the surface or the interior of the earth.

“Petroleum Operations” means, *inter alia*, all operations related to the exploration, prospecting and development of petroleum fields, drilling of wells, and the conclusion of construction, expansion and renovation thereof. Such operations shall also include the production, processing and refining of crude oil and the production of petroleum derivatives and by-products; storage, transportation, loading and shipping; and the establishment and operation of the facilities of power, water, housing and camps, as well any other supplementary facilities, construction, equipment and administration.

“Person in charge of Oil Operations” means any natural or juristic person legally authorised to conduct oil operations.

Article 2

The provisions of this Decree-Law shall be applicable to all oil operations conducted in and on the territories of the State of Qatar and its continental shelf.

Article 3

Taking into consideration the measures required for safety precautions and production regulation, oil operations and related projects shall be conducted according to the prevailing technical traditions, rules and standards in the oil industry which guarantee the best practices for the optimal exploitation, investment, preservation, development and production of the State's oil resources, as well as the prevention of their loss, damage or waste.

Article 4

The person in charge of oil operations shall adopt whatever safety precautions and procedures are required to prevent:

1. Waste, damage or risk caused by such operations and that might inflict harm to, *inter alia*, human life, public health, property, natural wealth resources, shores, archaeological or tourist attractions, religious

monuments and cemeteries.

2. Environmental pollution in general and air, surface water and groundwater pollution in particular.
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Article 5

1. All apparatus, equipment and substances used in oil operations shall conform to standard international specifications and shall comply with industrial safety and security and other technical conditions in accordance with the best rules of practice applied in the oil industry.
 1. Such apparatus, equipment and substances shall at all times be accompanied by accredited certificates that certify their operational validity.
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Article 6 (Amended By Decree 35/2002)★

1. The person in charge of oil operations shall, prior to commencing any projects, submit to Qatar Petroleum a detailed description of the project including its plans, location, productive capacity, mode of operation, geometric information, estimated costs, calculations, and any other documents, information, and necessary statistics.
1. After conducting a comprehensive study and completing the different documents, the administration shall issue a recommendation supported by reasons for approving, disapproving or amending the project.

Such recommendation shall not be final or valid unless ratified by the Minister

Article 7 (Amended By Decree 35/2002)★

1. The person in charge of oil operations shall submit to Qatar Petroleum, periodically and pursuant to the rules decided in this matter, detailed information about the execution of the different phases of the project. Such person shall also submit all programs, reports, data and information related to the oil operations in general.

1. The administration shall have the right at any time to control, follow up and verify the proper execution of all phases of the operations and their projects in accordance with the provisions of the law, issued resolutions and plans thereof.
 2. The administration shall submit its reports on such operations and projects to the Minister of Energy and Industry for his instructions.
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Article 8 (Amended By Decree 35/2002)★

1. The Qatar Petroleum staff, authorized by a resolution of the Minister of Energy and Industry, shall have the capacity of judicial officers in implementing the provisions of this Decree-Law.
 1. Such staff shall have the right to investigate and examine the registers, documents and statements at the office of the person in charge of oil operations and at different work places, as well as the right to conduct field, laboratory and administrative investigations, tests, and experiments relating to any aspect of such operations.
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Article 9 (Amended By Decree 35/2002)★

The Minister of Energy and Industry shall have the right, when necessary, to entrust to any natural or juristic person all or some of the competencies authorized to Qatar Petroleum pursuant to the provisions of this Decree-Law. Such person and his subordinates shall enjoy the same rights and privileges afforded to the employees of Qatar Petroleum.

Article 10 (Amended By Decree 35/2002)★

Qatar Petroleum may notify the person in charge of oil operations of the procedures to be adopted to apply the provisions of this Decree-Law and to define a term for their execution. Where such officer fails to comply with the notification, or the execution fails to produce the required result, the administration shall submit the issue to the Minister of Energy and Industry for the necessary resolution, including the total or partial cessation of oil production.

Article 11

1. Any person convicted of violating the provisions, bylaws, regulations or executive resolutions of this Decree-Law shall be sentenced to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand (500,000) Riyals.
 1. Where such person commits a similar violation within three years of the date of the previous violation, such fine shall be doubled.
 2. In all cases, in addition to receiving a fine, such person shall be ordered to pay appropriate compensation if the violation inflicted harm to any oil resources or to any other person, without prejudice to the person in charge of oil operations being ordered to restore the status quo at his own expense.
 3. The provisions of paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) above shall not preclude the application of different rights and penalties available pursuant to the Law or any contract or international agreement.
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Article 12 (Amended By Decree 35/2002)★

1. A resolution for the imposition of penalties and compensation decided according to the provisions of this Decree-Law shall be issued by the Minister of Energy and Industry upon a proposal by Qatar Petroleum.
 1. Such resolution shall be executable through the administrative channels unless the Minister decides otherwise.
 2. The Minister shall have the right, before issuing the resolution, to form a technical committee to study the issue, and the person in charge of the oil operations shall have the right to express his opinion concerning any allegations made against him.
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Article 13

1. The resolution shall be delivered by registered letter to the person in charge of the oil operations within ten days of its issuance.
1. The person in charge of the oil operations may file a complaint against the resolution before the Council of Minister within thirty days of his receiving it.
2. Such complaint shall not stop the execution of the resolution. Notwithstanding this, the Council of Ministers may, whenever necessary, order that the execution be stopped if it is shown that serious damage may result if the execution proceeds. In this case, the Council of Ministers may order the provision of an appropriate guarantee.
3. In all cases, the resolution of the Council of Ministers shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Article 14 (Amended By Decree 35/2002) ★

Any provisions not regulated by this Decree-Law shall be regulated by virtue of a Decree in order to achieve the goals thereof, and the Minister of Energy and Industry shall issue the requisite bylaws and resolutions to execute this Decree-Law.

Article 15

All competent authorities, each within its jurisdiction, shall implement this Decree-Law which shall be effective from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Deputy Emir of the State of Qatar
Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani

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