

## Oil and gas regulation in Bahrain: overview

Resource type: **Country Q&A**    Status: **Law stated as at 01-Aug-2014**    Jurisdiction: **Bahrain**

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A Q&A guide to oil and gas regulation in Bahrain.

The Q&A gives a high level overview of the domestic oil and gas sector, rights to oil and gas, health safety and the environment, sale and trade in oil and gas, tax and enforcement of regulation. It covers transfer of rights; transportation by pipeline; environmental impact assessments; decommissioning; waste regulations and proposals for reform.

To compare answers across multiple jurisdictions, visit the energy and natural resources *Oil and gas regulation Country Q&A tool*.

This Q&A is part of the global guide to energy and natural resources. For a full list of contents visit [www.practicallaw.com/energy-guide](http://www.practicallaw.com/energy-guide).

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Harnek Shoker, Head of Bahrain Office/MENA Energy & Infrastructure Projects

## Domestic sector

1. Describe the domestic sector and policy for oil and gas, including liquefied natural gas (LNG).

### Domestic industrial production

The island Kingdom of Bahrain (Bahrain) was the first Gulf State to discover crude oil in the 1930s. Oil and gas resources contribute significantly to Bahrain's economy. About 80% of the Government budget is funded by oil revenues. As of 2012, Bahrain was reported to have 122 million barrels of proven oil reserves and 90 billion cubic metres of natural gas reserves. Oil is predominantly extracted from onshore fields in Awali (located in the south of the island) at an estimated rate of 45,000 barrels per day (bpd). Non-associated natural gas is extracted from the Khuff reservoir in Awali at a rate of 42 million cubic metres per day.

Under the terms of the Abu Safa Field Co-operation Treaty, signed in 1958, Bahrain receives a 50% share (150,000 bpd) of the oil produced from neighbouring Saudi Arabia's offshore Abu Safa oilfield. Bahrain imports and refines a further 230,000 bpd from Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company, Saudi Aramco, via its major oil pipeline, AB-1.

For more information on the domestic sector for oil and gas, see below, [Domestic market structure](#).

### The import/export market

See above, [Domestic industrial production](#) and below, [Government policy objectives](#).

### Domestic market structure

The Government of Bahrain retains a full monopoly over the oil and gas industry in Bahrain. In 2007, the Government oversaw a significant restructuring of its oil and gas interests by incorporating "nogaholding" which acts as a holding company with respect to the various oil and gas entities in both the upstream and downstream sectors. Some of the more important entities can be summarised as follows:

- **Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO).** BAPCO is the principal actor in Bahrain's upstream sectors leading the country's exploration and production efforts in both oil and gas. BAPCO is also considered the main actor in the downstream sector operating the country's Sitra refinery and is both the wholesaler/retailer of oil and gas products domestically and internationally.
- **Tatweer Petroleum.** Tatweer is mandated with exploring Bahrain's oilfields and expanding production levels to meet targets set by Bahrain's Vision 2030. Tatweer also represents the Government's initiative of further involving the private sector in an industry that is considered the lifeline of Bahrain's economy (see below, [Government policy objectives](#)).
- **Bahrain National Gas Company (BANAGAS).** BANAGAS is a joint venture with Chevron and Boubyan Petrochemical. The primary objective of the company is to process associated gas into marketable products such as propane and butane.
- **Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC).** GPIC is a joint venture with Saudi Basic Industries and Kuwait Petrochemical Industries, which specialises in the manufacture of fertilisers and other downstream-related products using Bahrain's natural gas resources.

## Government policy objectives

Bahrain is faced with the challenge of relatively low oil and gas reserves. The National Oil & Gas Authority (NOGA) regulates the oil and gas sector. One of its duties is to develop a sustainable domestic energy policy.

**Oil.** NOGA has developed long-term initiatives to maximise recovery of Bahrain's hydrocarbon resources. In 2009, NOGA entered into a major development and production sharing agreement (DPSA) with:

- Occidental Petroleum Corporation (a US company).
- Mubadala Development Company (an Abu Dhabi company).
- The state-owned Oil & Gas Holding Company.

This led to the creation of a joint venture company, Tatweer Petroleum. Tatweer plays a major part in Bahrain's hydrocarbon policy, supporting the Government in its aim of boosting oil capacity from 45,000 bpd to 100,000 bpd by 2018. A total of 3,500 wells are expected to be drilled during this period.

NOGA and the state-owned Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) have also held discussions with Saudi Aramco to upgrade the AB-1 pipeline, the major pipeline between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. AB-1 transports 230,000 bpd to Bapco's Sitra refinery. The works would cost US\$300 million and boost refining capacity to 350,000 bpd. This project is likely to commence in the near future. Bapco and NOGA also plan to enhance and expand the refinery in Sitra. This would cost over US\$7 billion but will help boost oil capacity to 450,000 bpd.

A significant feature of NOGA's oil policy is offshore exploration. It has granted several offshore exploration permits, including to Occidental Petroleum Corporation and Thailand's PTT Exploration & Production. These ventures have not as yet led to any major oil discoveries.

**Gas.** Forecasts indicate Bahrain's natural gas reserves will be depleted in ten years. Bahrain's state-owned aluminium company, Alba, is the largest consumer of gas in Bahrain. NOGA has given Tatweer the mandate to maximise recovery of natural gas from the Khuff reservoir under the DPSA (see above, [Domestic industrial production](#)). By 2018, it is predicted that gas production levels will increase to 70 million cubic metres per day.

To prevent future gas shortages, NOGA has also planned major infrastructure projects to facilitate gas

imports. In 2012, NOGA awarded contracts worth US\$600 million for the construction of a new LNG import terminal. It is scheduled to be completed by 2015.

## Current market trends

See above, [Government policy objectives](#).

### 2. What percentage of domestic energy needs is met by oil and gas?

There is insufficient data on the percentage of domestic energy needs which are met by oil and gas but it is likely to be high. Almost all of the natural gas extracted and produced in Bahrain is used for domestic consumption. Total oil consumption is about 47,000 bpd and natural gas consumption is about 16 billion cubic metres per year.

## Regulation

### Regulatory bodies

### 3. Who regulates the extraction of oil and gas?

A number of Government agencies regulate the extraction of oil and gas:

- NOGA is responsible for regulating, supervising, organising and developing Bahrain's hydrocarbons sector, and:
  - controls exploration and production;
  - issues licences, permits and approvals to third parties involved in the oil and gas industry.
- The Supreme Council for the Environment (Supreme Council) is responsible for regulating matters relating to the environment. It aims to develop sound environmental policies across all sectors, including oil and gas. NOGA works closely with the Supreme Council to ensure all stakeholders in the hydrocarbon industry comply with good practice and standards of quality in respect of air and water, pollution control and environmental friendliness.
- The Ministry of Labour regulates matters regarding the health and safety of employees in Bahrain's industrial sector. It works with companies such as Bapco and Tatweer to ensure internal health and safety policies comply with national and international standards.
- The Ministry of Industry & Commerce regulates and supervises the industrial sector in Bahrain. All industrial operators (including those in the oil and gas industry), must hold a valid industrial licence from the Ministry.

See box, [The regulatory authorities](#).

### The regulatory regime

### 4. Describe the regulatory regime that applies to oil and gas exploration and production, including

### *the key legislation and features of the regime.*

The Government, through state entities such as NOGA and Bapco, asserts primary control over the oil and gas sector. NOGA produces specific regulations. Bapco holds exclusive rights to explore, produce and distribute oil and gas on the Government's behalf. Other governmental authorities, such as the Supreme Council for the Environment, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, may be important in certain areas (see box, [The regulatory authorities](#)).

There is no overarching regulatory framework. The DPSA between NOGA and Tatweer is a recent regulatory development (see [Question 1, Government policy objectives](#)). It reflects the Government's plan to harness private sector expertise to maximise use of the country's natural resources.

NOGA has entered into a number of other production sharing agreements, though the DPSA is the most noteworthy. As a matter of constitutional law, each agreement must be ratified by Parliament and issued in the form of legislation. Each agreement is unique with its own set of negotiated terms, rights and obligations.

## **Rights to oil and gas**

### **Ownership**

#### *5. How are rights to oil and gas held, and who holds those rights?*

Constitutionally, all mineral wealth existing underground or in situ within the territories of Bahrain is owned by the state. It remains closely under the state's control. This principle is reflected in NOGA's production sharing licences. For example, under the DPSA, the contractor must deliver the crude oil and non-associated gas it produces to Bapco, as the state's representative.

### **Nature of oil and gas rights**

#### *6. What are the key features of the leases, licences or concessions which are issued under the regulatory regime? Can these rights be leased by the right-holder?*

### **Lease/ licence/ concession term**

There are no standard features of the leases, licences or concessions issued by NOGA. The DPSA has an initial term of 20 years, which can be extended by an additional ten years with the written approval of NOGA.

### **Fees**

Each licence or concession could potentially have a different fee structure. The DPSA, for example, sets out a fairly complex compensatory regime for the production of oil and gas. In relation to oil, the DPSA allocates a quantity of the oil produced to the contractor. The contractor is legally bound to sell this oil to Bapco. Prices for the oil are based on the daily weighted averages set by Saudi Aramco for Arab Medium Crude oil. The DPSA allows the contractor to recover its costs of production. These costs are deducted from the value of the contractor's allocated oil. The remaining value is known as "profit oil". The profit oil is shared between NOGA and the contractor based on a ratio of the contractor's revenues against its costs.

A similar fee structure is applied to the non-associated gas produced and delivered by the contractor under the terms of the DPSA.

## Liability

A contractor operating in the field of oil and gas has a legal duty to comply with local laws, including environmental, health and safety regulations (see [Questions 14 and 17](#)). Failure to comply with these regulations will potentially attract civil and criminal penalties.

Additional liabilities may be imposed in the licences and concessions granted to contractors. Under the DPSA, for example, the contractor is liable for any loss, injury or death caused to others as a result of the contractor's operations.

## Restrictions

Each licence or concession may impose different forms of restriction on a contractor. Under the DPSA, restrictions include:

- A contractor must obtain NOGA's permission if it wishes to assign its licence (see [Question 8](#)).
- Procurement conditions. Subcontractors and suppliers must be based in Bahrain or otherwise controlled by Bahraini nationals.
- The contractor must give first priority to Bahrain-based companies for the manufacture and provision of goods.
- Employee conditions. A contractor must employ a minimum number of Bahraini nationals, as determined by the Ministry of Labour from time-to-time.

### *7. How are such leases, licences or concessions awarded?*

NOGA has ultimate authority to grant licences and concessions to contractors within the confines of Bahrain's public procurement laws.

Legislative Decree No. 36 of 2002 in relation to the organisation of tenders and government acquisitions (Tender Law) regulates the procurement of goods and services by a public entity. It provides for different types of tenders, depending on the services procured. The Tender Board receives and determines tender applications under the Tender Law.

In relation to a concession or production-sharing licence such as the DPSA, NOGA must identify the prospective contractors it would like to invite to tender. It will then prepare a request for proposal asking those contractors to submit their bids. NOGA evaluates the bids on the basis of their technical, financial, legal and commercial merit before making its recommendations on preferred contractors to the Tender Board. The NOGA will select a preferred contractor, and then engage in negotiations with the contractor. Finalised terms will be set out in a licence agreement between NOGA and the contractor which will be submitted to Parliament for ratification. On ratification, the licence agreement will be issued in the form of binding law.

## Transfer of rights

### 8. How are oil and gas rights transferred? Are there any restrictions on the disposal of interests?

There is no general framework. Under the DPSA, oil and gas rights can be assigned. Assignments can be made either to an affiliated or a non-affiliated entity.

#### Affiliated entities

The contractor's assigning shareholder must provide NOGA with 90 days prior notice.

#### Non-affiliated entities

NOGA's prior approval is required. This will only be granted if the assignee meets certain conditions, such as agreeing to the DPSA and the DPSA-related project agreements.

An assignment would not be permitted if it resulted in the assigning shareholder owning less than 10% of the contractor following execution of the assignment. An application for NOGA's approval must include relevant supporting documentation, such as information about the assignee and details of any consideration payable.

## Tax

### 9. What payments, such as taxes or royalties, are payable by oil and gas interest holders to the government?

Since there is no overriding regulatory framework for licences or concessions in Bahrain, there are no general rules on royalties payable to the Government. The DPSA does not include them, although the NOGA may impose royalty requirements in future licences or concessions. In addition, NOGA is entitled to a proportion of profit oil remaining from oil and gas produced (see [Question 6, Fees](#)).

80% of the Government budget is funded by oil revenues (see [Question 1](#)).

Bahrain is a largely tax free regime but the oil and gas sector is the exception to this rule. The Government operates a special tax system for the hydrocarbons sector. This was consolidated and reformed by the Bahrain Income Tax Law (*Legislative Decree No. 22 of 1979*). Key tax issues include:

- **Scope.** The Bahrain Income Tax Law applies to any entity, irrespective of its place of domicile, which:
  - directly undertakes the extraction or production of crude oil or other hydrocarbons in Bahrain; or
  - refines and processes crude oil in private facilities in Bahrain, regardless of where the crude oil was extracted.
- **Tax rate.** The Bahrain Income Tax Law applies a flat rate of 46% on net income.
- **Income.** Income is defined as the gross revenues generated in a tax year attributable to:
  - the sale of crude oil or hydrocarbons which are extracted in Bahrain;
  - the sale of goods that are either fully or partially manufactured from crude oil or hydrocarbon resources; and
  - all dividends or returns received from interests in crude oil or other hydrocarbons extracted from and produced in Bahrain.

- **Expenses.** Taxpayers can deduct their costs and expenses from their gross revenues in a tax year. Tax is payable on the net income. The rules relating to expenses are complex. Allowable expenses include:
  - all reasonable costs in connection with the extraction and production of crude oil and hydrocarbons (including all manufacturing costs for any goods that derive from crude oil and hydrocarbons in Bahrain);
  - all reasonable capital expenditures;
  - asset depreciation costs;
  - any uninsured losses; and
  - all unapplied expenses permitted to be carried over from previous tax years.

*10. Does the government derive any other economic benefits from oil and gas exploration and production?*

See above, [Question 9](#).

*11. What taxes and duties apply on import and export of oil and gas?*

Private sector companies are banned from exporting subsidised crude oil and other hydrocarbons (*Order No. 11 of 2006*). A company which imports hydrocarbons must obtain a licence from NOGA and will pay 5% custom duty. This duty may be waived if the importer holds an industrial licence and the imported hydrocarbons are to be used for industrial purposes.

Bapco is exempt from the payment of any duties for the export or import of oil and gas.

## Transportation by pipeline

*12. What regulatory requirements apply to the construction and operation of pipelines?*

There are no specific ongoing regulations in relation to the construction and operation of pipelines. NOGA has the power to issue regulations. Bahrain has one major pipeline, AB-1, which connects the main Bapco refinery in Sitra with the oilfields in Saudi Arabia (see [Question 1](#), [Government policy objectives](#)).

*13. Is there a system of third party access to pipelines and other infrastructure?*

There are no specific regulations for third party access to pipelines and other hydrocarbon infrastructure. Special permission is required from NOGA for such access.

## Health, safety and the environment

## Health and safety

14. Describe the health and safety regime that applies to oil and gas exploration and extraction, and transportation by pipeline.

Bahrain's health and safety regulations apply broadly across all industrial sectors and are not specific to the exploration, extraction and transportation of oil and gas. The following apply to both private and public entities.

### Employees

General principles for occupational safety are set out in the Industrial Safety Order (*Order No. 6 of 2000*). An operator in the industrial sector must:

- Appoint a qualified occupational safety manager, who is responsible for ensuring employees comply with internal standards of safety.
- If the operator has over 100 employees, set up an occupational safety committee. The committee is responsible for implementing the operator's employee safety practices, policies and protocols.
- Ensure employees are aware of the relevant safety standards and receive frequent training on good practice for industrial safety.

In addition, other orders provide that:

- Operators must implement precautionary and preventative measures against potentially dangerous or hazardous mechanical equipment operated by employees (*Order No. 15 of 1977*).
- A range of environmental standards and conditions for workplaces and industrial sites must be met, including minimum standards on such matters as light, heat, noise and vibration levels (*Order No. 3 of 2005*).

### Environmental issues

Broad principles for the preservation and protection of the environment are set out in the Environment Act (*Legislative Decree No. 21 of 1996*). The Supreme Council has significant powers to prohibit or control any practice or material that causes pollution, contamination or harm to Bahrain's ecosystem.

The Standards of Air and Water Regulations (*Order No. 10 of 1999*) significantly affect the hydrocarbons sector. It imposes strict limitations on the emission or discharge of pollutants from industrial activities into the air or water. For instance, the regulations require appropriate controls for volatile organic compounds (and other similar emissions) that could result from petroleum operations. To ensure compliance, the Supreme Council requires operators (whether public or private) to (*Order No. 10 of 2006*):

- Keep records of their emissions.
- Install technology that allows the Supreme Council electronic access to internal information on emission levels.

### Internal policies of NOGA and Bapco

NOGA and Bapco have developed a variety of internal policies regarding safe and environmentally friendly practices for their petroleum operations. These are based on international standards set by the leaders in the global petroleum industry.

## Rules under the DPSA

Under the DPSA, the contractor must create an overall system for health, safety and the environment (HSE System), to be introduced over the course of the concession. The HSE System should be based on international standards, such as those provided by the:

- International Association of Oil & Gas Production.
- International Association of Drilling Contractors.
- International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

The HSE System must:

- Include preventive measures against pollution, contamination or any other damage to public health or the environment.
- Have an environmental plan setting out emergency procedures that are to be followed in the event of fire, spillage or releases of oil or gas.
- Include dedicated health and safety policies for employees and subcontractors involved in any petroleum operations.

The contractor must form a committee that supervises, enforces and provides guidelines on the implementation of the HSE System.

## Environmental impact assessments (EIAs)

### 15. Is an EIA required before extracting or processing oil and gas?

The Supreme Council has the power to order mandatory EIAs in respect of any project (*Order No. 1 of 1998*) (EIA Act). The Supreme Council sets out these projects and works in the form of a ministerial order. In the hydrocarbons sector, EIAs are required for proposed:

- Oil refineries.
- Petrochemical plants.
- Works which involve the production and storage of petroleum products.

The Supreme Court has the discretion to waive the need for EIAs. An EIA in the hydrocarbons sector must be prepared by recognised consultancy firms accredited by the Supreme Council (*Order No 3 of 2000*).

### 16. What are the different stages of the EIA?

The EIA must be submitted to the Supreme Council pursuant to a specific application process prescribed by the EIA Act and the Supreme Council. The process typically takes into account public health issues and ecological factors. The Supreme Council is entitled to request the conduct of further research, studies, tests, analysis or assessments, and the supply of additional information. The Supreme Council endeavours to issue

its views and recommendations within two months of receiving an applicant's EIA. Applicants are expected to act on the recommendations, making any necessary arrangements to ensure compliance with the Council's suggestions.

In practice, EIAs can be a prolonged process, lasting between six to 12 months.

## Environmental permits

*17. Is there a permit regime for environmental damage or emissions produced during the extraction or processing of oil and gas?*

There are no specific rules for environmental damage or emissions produced during the extraction or processing of oil and gas. An operator must comply with the general emission controls set out under the Standards of Air & Water Regulations. The Supreme Council also has the power to direct operators to change their methods to meet its environmental standards (see [Questions 15 and 16](#)).

## Waste

*18. What are the regulations on the disposal of waste products resulting from oil or gas extraction or processing?*

Industrial operators must co-operate with the Supreme Council and the Ministry of Municipalities on the storage, transport and disposal of waste products emanating from industrial operations (*Environment Act*).

Particular regulations for operators dealing with hazardous waste are provided in the Hazardous Wastes Order (*No. 3 of 2006*). The Order defines hazardous waste as any solid, liquid or gaseous material which has a hazardous impact on public health, the environment or the wildlife in Bahrain. This covers waste resulting from petroleum operations.

Industrial operators have a duty to use environmentally friendly methods, to minimise the production of hazardous waste. Operators must disclose levels of hazardous waste and co-operate with the Supreme Council for the purposes of inspection and testing. They must separate and store different types of waste in purpose-built containers. In all cases, transportation, treatment and/or disposal of hazardous waste must be carried out by licensed persons with suitable qualifications.

There is currently no tax regime applicable to the accumulation, storage, treatment or disposal of waste (whether hazardous or otherwise). The Supreme Council has the power to introduce such a tax regime in the future, if it considers it necessary.

## Flares and vents

*19. Are flare and vent regulations in place?*

The practice of flaring and venting is regulated by the Standards of Air and Water Regulations (see [Question 14, Environmental issues](#)). An operator must ensure the level of any emissions resulting from flaring and

venting remains within the regulations. The Supreme Council also retains the right to direct an operator on its flaring and venting practice, or ban it altogether.

Bapco has worked with the Supreme Council to develop internal policies on flaring and venting which comply with the guidelines set by the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (see [Question 14, Internal policies of NOGA and Bapco](#)).

## Decommissioning

### 20. What are the decommissioning obligations and liabilities that arise?

There is no specific regulatory framework for decommissioning. Under the DPSA, a contractor must ensure its decommissioning works accord with international standards, including:

- Removal of all equipment and installations.
- Site restoration.
- Compliance with environmental standards.

During the DPSA, the contractor must maintain an abandonment fund to be administered by NOGA at the time decommissioning takes place.

The Supreme Council must be notified immediately of any incidents which amount to a breach of local environmental standards (including any spills, discharge, leaks or other similar incidents).

## Sale and trade

### 21. How is trade in oil and gas usually completed?

Bapco has a critical role in the distribution of oil and gas produced in Bahrain (see [Question 1](#)). Typical sale transactions entered into by Bapco include:

- **Off-take agreements.** Bapco commonly enters into off-take agreements (where future production is sold) with reputable off-takers for the sale of oil and gas to international markets.
- **Crude oil sale purchase agreements (COSPA).** Under the DPSA, the contractor is required to enter into a COSPA with Bapco. The contractor cannot sell the crude oil it produces to any other party.
- **Gas management agreements.** Like COSPA, the contractor is required to enter into a gas management agreement with Bapco for the sale of non-associated gas. Similar restrictions apply in relation to selling to other parties.
- **Standard sale and purchase agreements.** Bapco enters standard sale and purchase agreements with parties in the downstream sector for oil and gas as feedstock (raw material) including power plants, aluminium smelters and petrochemical plants. The downstream sector includes refining and distribution. The upstream sector refers to exploration, drilling, crude oil and gas production and transportation to the refinery.

## 22. Are oil and gas prices regulated?

Oil and gas prices are regulated by NOGA (*Decree No. 78 of 2005*) and subsidised by the Ministry of Finance though the level of subsidy has recently fallen, reflecting increasing domestic demand. NOGA increased domestic prices for natural gas by 75% in 2012 from CO\$1.50 per MMBTU (million metric British Thermal Units) to CO\$2.25 per MMBTU.

## Enforcement of regulation

### 23. What are the regulator's enforcement powers?

#### Orders

As principal regulator, NOGA has broad enforcement powers. It can grant or revoke any operator's licence across the oil and gas industry. Similarly, the Supreme Council and the Ministry of Labour have the power to compel operators to adopt corrective measures to comply with health, safety and environmental regulations. The Supreme Council may order, among other things, an inspection of an operator's premises or tests and environmental studies. The Ministry of Industry & Commerce is also empowered to ensure an operator abides by the terms of its industrial licence.

#### Fines and penalties

There are a variety of fines and penalties:

- NOGA can revoke a licence where an operator acts in contravention of the licence's terms or is otherwise in breach of relevant provisions.
- The Supreme Council can refer operators to the courts and face a combination of civil and criminal liability for violation of the terms of their environmental licence or for otherwise breaching the Supreme Council's environmental regulations and orders (*Environment Act*). An operator can face fines up to US\$132,000 for an environmental violation.
- The courts can order the revocation of an operator's licence and impose a cessation order. This means the mandatory decommissioning of the licensee's operations. In cases of severe environmental violation, the operator's management could face criminal liability with up to one year's imprisonment and a fine of US\$2,500.
- The Ministry of Industry & Commerce can impose a range of civil and criminal sanctions on an operator who fails to hold a valid industrial licence or infringes the terms of the industrial licence it holds.
- The Ministry of Labour has authority to fine an operator who fails to maintain health and safety standards for its employees. The fine can be up to US\$800, multiplied by the number of its employees in Bahrain.

#### Other

There are no other relevant enforcement powers.

### 24. Is there a right of appeal against the regulator's decisions?

There is a general right to appeal the decisions of public authorities and the courts within a 30 day period. Appeals are carried out in accordance with Bahrain's civil court procedure rules.

## Reform

*25. Are there plans for changes to the legal and regulatory framework?*

There are currently no plans for changes to the legal and regulatory framework.

### The regulatory authorities

#### National Oil & Gas Authority

**Address.** PO Box 1435, Manama, Bahrain

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**E** [info@noga.gov.bh](mailto:info@noga.gov.bh)

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**Main responsibilities.** Principal supervisor and regulator for the oil and gas industry in Bahrain.

#### Supreme Council for the Environment

**Address.** PO Box 18233, Manama, Bahrain

**T** +973 17386999

**F** +973 17920206

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**Main responsibilities.** Regulator for all matters concerning the environment in Bahrain.

#### Ministry of Labour

**Address.** Isa Town, Bahrain

**T** +973 17873777

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**W** [www.mol.gov.bh](http://www.mol.gov.bh)

**Main responsibilities.** Regulator for labour affairs in Bahrain. Its powers include monitoring compliance with employee health and safety regulations.

#### Ministry of Industry & Commerce

**Address.** PO Box 5479, Bahrain

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**W** [www.moic.gov.bh](http://www.moic.gov.bh)

**Main responsibilities.** Regulator of industrial affairs.

## Online resources

**W** [www.legalaffairs.gov.bh](http://www.legalaffairs.gov.bh)

**Description.** This website contains all of Bahrain's regulations, including those mentioned in this note. Only Arabic versions of these regulations are available. English translations must be obtained independently.

## Contributor profile

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**Experience.** Harnek has:

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**Languages.** Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu

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