

Equipment Decontamination



Equipment Decontamination

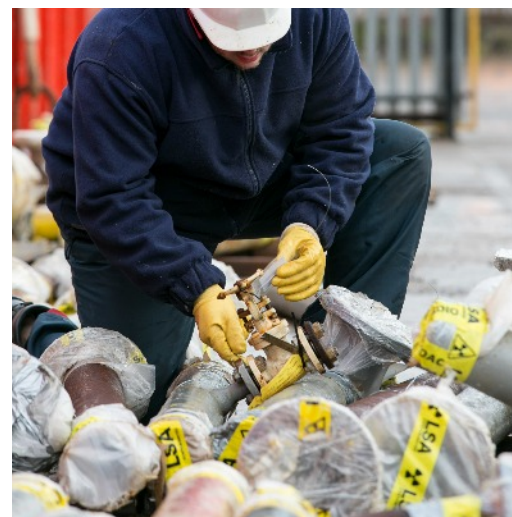
For over 30 years Scotoil Services Ltd has operated Scotlands premier onshore facility authorised for the removal and disposal of NORM scale.

Over a period of time, NORM scale builds up in oilfield pipework, valves and equipment. Ultimately this would render the equipment inoperable and could require costly replacement.

NORM forms when large quantities of water are injected into the reservoir to displace the oil and lift it to the production platform. In moving through the reservoir, injected seawater comes into contact with the formation water in the reservoir rock structure. This formation water contains solutions of a number of naturally occurring mineral salts.

Contact with seawater can cause several salts - notably barium and strontium and also the element radium - to come out of solution. This can build up over time to form a scale on the inside of tubulars and equipment and must be removed. As radium may be contained in minute concentration in this scale and, because it is naturally radioactive, the scale itself can be classed as radioactive under UK legislation.

Equipment is decontaminated using high pressure water jetting to remove the NORM scale before the scale is disposed of in accordance with current legislation and the site authorisation.



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Equipment Decontamination Continued

At the Scotoil facility, all equipment is cleaned and decontaminated to natural background radiation levels, before being returned to clients. Thus allowing reuse of many high valued, critical pieces of equipment.

NORM scale is also becoming a major issue facing contractors working on the decommissioning of oil and gas installations. Legislation demands that all equipment is decontaminated before disposal.

Scotoil Services NORM scale removal and disposal operations are carried out in accordance with a comprehensive Safety Management System. The service is certified by LRQA to:

ISO 9001 : 2008, 14001 : 2004 and OHSAS 18001 : 2007

Scotoil Services are also an affiliate of the Water Jetting Association.

For further information on equipment decontamination, water jetting and NORM scale disposal, please contact the Operations Manager at Scotoil Services.



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