

**Royal Decree of 9 April 1965 relating to Exploration for and Exploitation of Petroleum  
Deposits  
in the Sea-Bed and its Subsoil on the Norwegian Continental Shelf**

**Chapter I**  
**Introductory Provisions**

**Article 1**

These provisions shall apply to exploration for and exploitation of petroleum deposits on the sea-bed or in its subsoil in Norwegian internal waters, the Norwegian territorial sea and that part of the continental shelf which is subject to Norwegian national jurisdiction, but they shall not apply in respect of areas which are under private ownership.

**Article 2**

The term "petroleum deposits" means deposits of mineral oils and related hydrocarbons and gases found in the natural state in the subsoil and other substances, including sulphur, which are mined or extracted in connexion with the exploitation of such deposits.

**Article 3**

The following licences may be granted by the Department of Industry pursuant to this Decree and subject to such further conditions as may be laid down in the licence:

- (1) A licence to engage in exploration for petroleum deposits on or in the sea-bed or in limited sections thereof for a specified period of time without the grant of exclusive rights to the licence-holder (exploration licence);
- (2) A licence under which exclusive rights are granted to engage for a specified period of time in the exploration for and exploitation of petroleum deposits in delimited areas (mining and extraction licence).

**Chapter II**  
**Exploration Licences**

**Article 4**

Exploration licences may be granted to Norwegian or foreign persons, companies, institutions or other associations.

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