

Incident description: Oil leak 2013

As part of the system for fiscal measurement there were two mixing pumps. There had been frequent leaks from the mechanical seal on these pumps since they were installed, thus for about 15 years ago a new type of mechanical seal was installed. This type of seal did not require flushing / cooling, hence the flush pipe was dismantled. When this seal also began to leak it was five years later ordered sealing of the old type for the pumps, of the type that requires flushing / cooling. The flush pipe was, however, not remounted.

This meant that the seal over time went dry and sand particles came into the seal. An oil leak then occurred from pump B with a rate of ca. 0,16 kg/s. In excess of 100 kg of oil ran out and was collected by the drainage system of the platform.

CausesDirect cause:

Mechanical seal of a mixing pump went dry and started to leak.

Root causes:

- Flushing pipe was not remounted when going back to the old type of seal.
- Notification for replacement of seal was not considered/evaluated by technical discipline manager.

Learning points and recommendations:

- Ensure adequate systems for management of change, securing that the relevant competence is involved in connection with changes.