

Guidelines for designation of wells and wellbores

(Ref. Resource regulations sections 13)

Revision history of this document

28.03.2025	Item IV – well number extended from 99 to 9999. Minor clarifications
13.09.2019	Exploration wellbores drilled from fixed installations (platforms and subsea templates) will now follow the same naming convention as development wellbores
01.09.2014	‘Shallow wellbores’ are replaced with ‘Other wellbores’.
21.02.2013	Item number III in the designation is extended from one to two characters.
04.03.2010	More detailed description for designation of multilateral wellbores, including new figure.
20.11.2007	Mistake in table description corrected. The minus sign between III and IV was missing.
17.08.2007	New description how to handle multilateral wellbores.
11.12.2006	Item VIII is introduced to distinguish between wellbores producing from several fields. For the wellbore producing from the “first” field no value (blank) will be used for item VIII, for the next F2 will be used, then F3 etc.
03.06.2002	The first technical sidetrack is called T2, and not T1 as stated in revision of 1.1.2001.
01.01.2001	A change where the wellbore identification was divided into 8 parts, whereby operator companies are responsible for the 8 th part
01.01.2000	A new well model based on the POSC standard for naming wells were adopted by the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate

Definitions

Well: borehole which is drilled in order to discover or delimit a petroleum deposit and/ or to produce petroleum or water for injection purposes, to inject gas, water or other medium, or to map or monitor well parameters. There are several categories of wells. A well may consist of one or several wellbores (well paths) and may have one or several termination points.

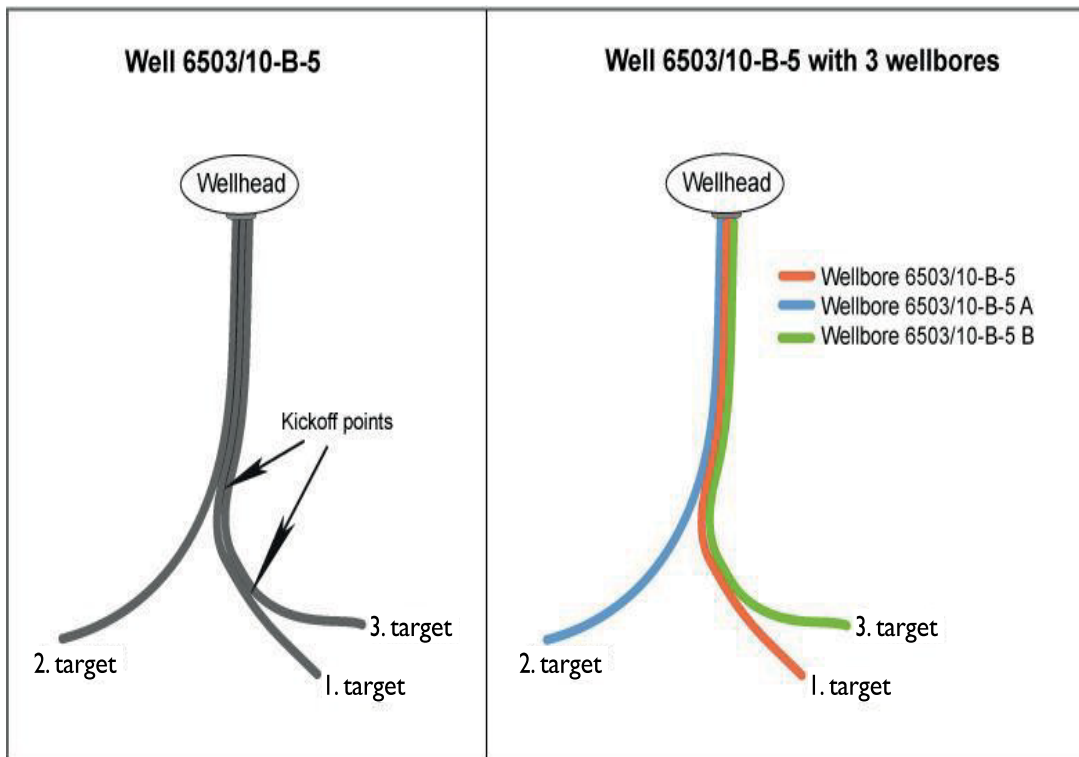
Wellbore (well path): designates the location of the well from one termination point to the wellhead. A wellbore may consist of one or more well tracks.

Well track: the part of a wellbore (well path) which extends from a point of drilling out on the existing wellbore (kick-off point) to a new termination point for the well.

Multilateral wellbore: has more than one wellbore radiating from the main wellbore. In contrast to sidetracked wells where the first bottom section is plugged back before a sidetrack is drilled, multilateral wellbores have more than one wellbore open at the same time.

Other wellbore: SOIL DRILLING (drilling in connection with subsurface surveys to investigate the soil conditions prior to placement of facilities), SHALLOW GAS (drilling to investigate shallow gas before the first 'real' drilling on the location), PILOT (drilling to investigate the geology and fluid contacts for location of the main wellbore), SCIENTIFIC (drilling according to Act relating to Scientific research and exploration), STRATIGRAPHIC (drilling according to Act relating to Petroleum activities §2-1).

Example 1 - Relation between well and wellbores



Example 2 - Multilateral wellbores

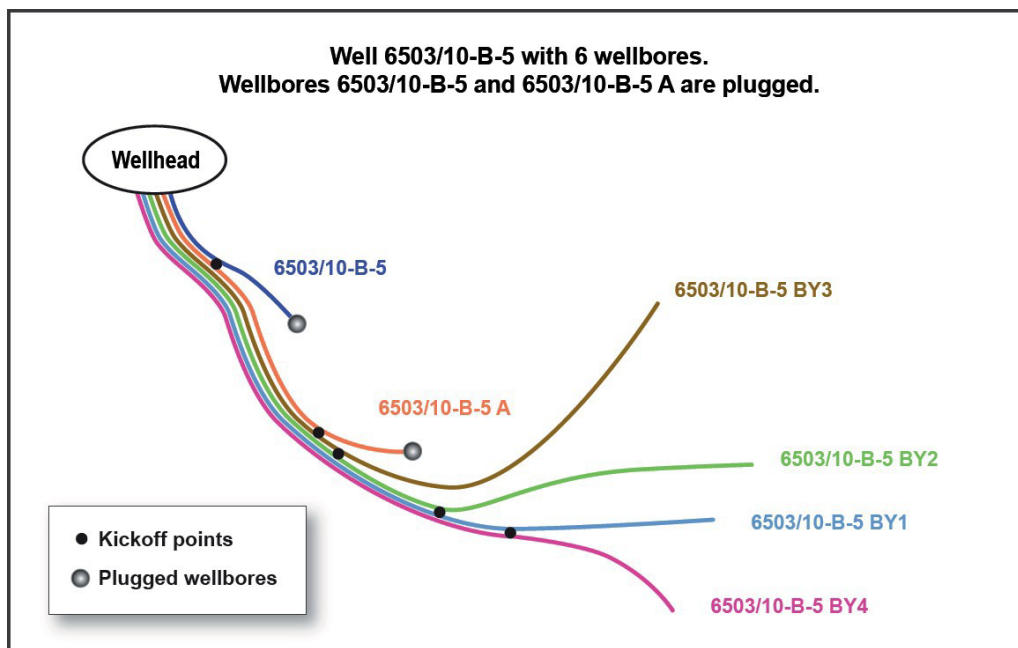


Table description

	Wellbore designation maintained by the operator companies based on Norwegian Offshore Directorate (NOD) guidelines											
	Wellbore designation determined by the NOD											
	Well designation determined by the NOD											
Format	9999	/	99	-	AA	-	9999	AA	AA	A	AA	AAAAAA
Item number	I		II		III		IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX

Textual description

Well /Wellbore determined by the NOD

Item I: Quadrant number

Item II: Block number

Item III: Identification of the wellbore or designation of the installation.

- A – Z: installation designation, development wellbores and exploration wellbores drilled from a platform or subsea template (except U, T)
- AA-ZZ: if the entire alphabet has been used for identification, a second character can be used to identify the installation.
- U: other wellbores
- T: test production wellbore

Item IV: Well Number, serial number/slot number from 1-9999

- There must always be a space after Item IV, the well number.
- The numbering of the wellbores does not necessarily reflect the order the wellbores were drilled in.

Item V:

- S: exploration wellbore planned to be deviated, if not drilled from platform or sub-sea template
- A, B, etc.: side tracks
- R: re-entered exploration wellbores
- Y: planned as multilateral wellbores (se own description below)

Item VI:

- Numbers 2, 3 etc.: a count of the number of re-entries (i.e. R, R2, etc.)
- Numbers 1,2,3, etc.: a count of the well tracks in multilateral wellbores

Item VII:

- H: Sub-sea completed

Item VIII:

- Fx: Multi field (where x = 2, 3, 4 etc.).

Fx is used to identify multi field wellbores and should be used where production / and or injection is done from more than one field. The wellbore for the “first” field is not using Item VIII, the wellbore for the second field is named F2, for the third F3 etc.

Wellbore designations maintained by the operator company

Item IX

This item is used for more detailed identification of a wellbore (for instance when a technical sidetrack is drilled). The item list can be extended and will be updated by NOD. To ensure that uniqueness is achieved, the item list is sorted in alphabetical order. The current item list is:

- T2, T3 etc. are used to identify technical sidetrack wellbores. T2 is used for the first sidetrack, T3 for the next etc.
- Q1, Q2 etc. are used to identify multi-purpose wellbores and should be used where production and/or injection is done from separate zones within the wellbore. Q1 is used for the first stream, Q2 for the next, etc.

Multilateral wellbores

In contrast to sidetracked wellbores where the first bottom section is plugged back before a sidetrack is drilled, multilateral wellbores have more than one wellbore open at the same time with planned production/injection purpose.

Wellbores planned as multilaterals are named Y1, Y2, Y3 etc. (Item V), i.e. 31/2-L-12 Y1H and 31/2-L-12 Y2H. Multilaterals can also be drilled from sidetracks, i. e. 31/2-E-6 DY1H and 31/2-E-6 DY2H.

If a wellbore originally was not planned as multilateral, and the decision to drill multilateral from this wellbore is made at a later stage, the original wellbore keeps its name, i.e. 6608/10-E-1 H and the new wellbores are named Y2, Y3 etc. i.e. 6608/10-E-1 Y2H.

Writing rules

In writing no leading zeros are used. Numbers in Item I shall have right alignment. All other numbers and letters have left alignment. There must always be a space between Item IV (well number) and the rest of the wellbore reference. If any of the items is empty, that item is skipped when the well/wellbore name is written.

According to section 13 in the Regulations relating to resource management in the petroleum activities (Resource management regulations) the licensee shall obtain registration number and well/well path designation from the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate in respect of each separate well or well path prior to commencement of drilling activities.