

Installations) Act—was passed in 1971. It applies to the exploration and exploitation of mineral resources under territorial waters or in areas designated under the Continental Shelf Act 1964. The exploration and exploitation must be from a floating or other installation not connected to dry land—namely an “offshore installation”—for the Act to apply: drillships, jack-ups, semi-submersibles and fixed steel or concrete platforms are all included.

2.6. The 1971 Act enables regulations to be made for the safety of offshore installations and for the safety, health and welfare of persons aboard. The Act lays duties on the concession owner and installation owner and requires the appointment of an installation manager, who has a general responsibility for safety, health and welfare on an installation and, in that connection, for maintaining discipline and order. Other important sections of the Act enable the Secretary of State to appoint inspectors and provide the police with the powers, protection and privileges which they have on land.

2.7. The areas in need of regulatory control were also identified and were as follows:

- 2.7.1. Registration of offshore installations;
- 2.7.2. Design, construction and operation of offshore installations;
- 2.7.3. Appointment of managers;
- 2.7.4. Appointment of inspectors and reporting accidents;
- 2.7.5. Diving operations;
- 2.7.6. Emergency procedures and equipment.

The regulations made under the 1971 Act are all included in the list in Appendix 5.

The following are of particular importance in the context of this Inquiry.

2.8. *Inspectors and Casualties Regulations 1973.* These make provision for the enforcement of legislation on all installations on the UKCS by inspectors of the Department of Energy and require the reporting of casualties and other accidents. They detail the powers given to inspectors and lay duties on installation owners and others to assist the inspectors in the carrying out their duties. The build up of staff in the Inspectorate is shown in Appendix 7.

2.9. *Construction and Survey Regulations 1974.* Under these regulations, no fixed or mobile installation may be used for exploration or production on the UKCS unless it has a valid Certificate of Fitness which states that the design is suitable for the intended use and the installation has been properly constructed in accordance with the design. Certificates are issued by six authorities appointed by the Secretary of State. Appendix 8 lists the authorities appointed and gives the terms and conditions of appointment. Appendix 9.1 lists all fixed installations registered with the Department and Appendix 9.2 lists registered mobile installations present as at 3 December 1979 together with their type, owner, location and Certifying Authority. The concept of these regulations is that an independent expert body should have a continuing role overseeing the construction and mode of operation of all offshore installations. The Certifying Authority is thus involved at the design stage, the construction stage and by means of the periodic surveys required by the regulations, during the operational life of the installation.