

2.15 *Fire-Fighting Equipment Regulations 1978*. These regulations require automatic fire and gas detection and alarm systems, manual fire alarms, water mains, pumps, hydrants and hoses, fixed extinguishing systems and fireman's equipment. Fire-fighting equipment plans must be kept and displayed on installations. Examinations are required and are carried out by surveyors of Marine Division, Department of Trade, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy.

2.16. Regulations made under the 1971 Mineral Workings Act cannot be applied to submarine pipelines on the UKCS and authority was therefore sought in the 1975 Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Act to provide for the safe construction and use of pipelines. The Act requires the construction or use of a pipeline to be authorised by the Secretary of State and authorisations include requirements concerning safety matters. In addition, the Act enables regulations to be made concerning the construction and operation of pipelines and safety, health and welfare of persons engaged in pipeline works. Two sets of regulations have been made, in both cases the provisions are similar to those applying to the offshore installations. The regulations are:

- Submarine Pipelines (Diving Operations) Regulations 1976;
- Submarine Pipelines (Inspectors etc) Regulations 1977.

2.17. Both the 1971 Mineral Workings Act and the 1975 Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Act require the Secretary of State to consult organisations likely to be affected by the proposed content of regulations. The list of organisations to be consulted varied for each set of regulations so as to match the subject matter, but generally contained about 60–80 names and it is standard practice to include anyone expressing an interest in the consultation process.

2.18. Protection of Installations Orders made under the Continental Shelf Act 1964, create a prohibited zone (a "safety zone") of 500 metre radius around an installation in which only authorised shipping is allowed to enter. Safety zones have been designated for fixed installations since 1967 but Orders made prior to 1978 have been consolidated at the beginning of each year. The six Orders made in 1978 thus create safety zones for 70 installations (see Appendix 5).

Division of responsibilities between Department of Energy, Health and Safety Executive and Department of Trade

2.19. *Prime Minister's Statement*. In a written answer in the House of Commons on 30 July 1976 (full text in Appendix 10) the Prime Minister announced that the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 would be extended offshore and that the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) would therefore take on the policy responsibility for occupational safety offshore. The Secretary of State for Energy would retain responsibility for structural safety and "blow-out risks" and the Secretary of State for Trade would have responsibility for structural safety of laybarges. The Petroleum Engineering Division (PED) would act as agents for the HSC on occupational safety matters, and Government responsibilities offshore would be co-ordinated by an Interdepartmental Committee on Marine Safety.