

2.20. *Extension of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.* The Order-in-Council extending the 1974 Act offshore was made on 26 July 1977 and came into operation on 1 September 1977. From that date, HSC assumed policy responsibility for offshore occupational safety.

2.21. *Agency Agreement.* The Agreement (reproduced in Appendix 11) provides for the Secretary of State for Energy to act on behalf of the Health and Safety Commission or Executive in so far as the parties agree. The Secretary of State is to appoint inspectors under Section 19(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act and the HSC is to reimburse the full costs incurred by the Secretary of State.

Enforcement

2.22. The Petroleum Engineering Division (PED) of the Department of Energy now have the task of enforcing the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971, the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 as applied offshore by the Application outside Great Britain Order of 1977 and the Petroleum & Submarine Pipelines Act 1975. PED has three functional inspectorates, the Petroleum Inspectorate, the Diving Inspectorate and the Pipelines Inspectorate.

2.23 The Petroleum Inspectorate comprises 13 inspectors in four particular engineering disciplines, petroleum, mechanical, electrical and structural engineering. For operational purposes, the Inspectorate is split between offices in London and Glasgow. The Diving Inspectorate consists of five men, including the Chief Inspector. Recruitment to the Inspectorates is from among technically qualified applicants from industry or, in the case of the Diving Inspectorate, from the Royal Navy. The Pipelines Inspectorate is also responsible for the enforcement of the Pipelines Act 1962 onshore, and the Inspectorate therefore has "land" and "offshore" sections. The dividing line for responsibility is the low-water mark. The Offshore Section has four men, under the Chief Inspector. (Appendix 12 illustrates the organisational structure of the Division).

Safety legislation and enforcement in other countries

2.24. *Norway.* Norwegian offshore operations are most closely related to those on the UKCS. The Committee visited Norwegian Government officials in Oslo to learn of the Norwegian system of law and enforcement in the offshore industry.

2.25. Responsibility for safety offshore now resides wholly in the Ministry of Labour which, however, has delegated authority to different agencies and directorates. The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate is responsible for fixed installations, and the Norwegian Maritime Directorate for mobile installations. Safety regulations are issued under the Petroleum Act 1963, separately for fixed and mobile installations. The party conducting the operation is primarily responsible for safety, and the law requires an elected safety committee system. The Directorates issue supplementary regulations and are responsible for the Certificate of Fitness.

2.26. An Act relating to the Working Environment and having a very wide scope is now being applied offshore. It is capable of embracing all the necessary safety regulations but none have so far been made under this authority.