

CHAPTER 3

EXPERIENCE IN THE INDUSTRY OF FATALITIES, SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES: AREAS OF PARTICULAR DANGER

3.1. In this Chapter areas of particular danger are discussed; the appendices (Nos 14 and 15) discuss the accident statistics and the reported failures. The subject classification for accidents is that adopted by D/Energy and included in its Annual Report to Parliament, better known as the "Brown Book". D/Energy have adopted nine categories into which accidents are classified (see Table 1 of Appendix 14) and of these, five areas account for the majority of accidents.

3.2. The five categories are construction, drilling, diving, boats, and cranes (in order of appearance in Table 1, Appendix 14) and it is on these areas of particular danger this Chapter concentrates. The table below extracts the information from Table 1 in respect of the five categories.

	<i>Fatal</i>	<i>Serious</i>	<i>Total</i>
Construction ..	6	26	32
Drilling	11	90	101
Diving	16	12	28
Cranes	7	23	30
Boats	8	25	33
	—	—	—
	48	176	224
	—	—	—
Total casualties all nine categories of accidents	54	212	266

Construction

3.3. The most common accident is falling and in a high proportion of these cases that means into the sea. Two fatalities have been so classified where the presumed accident had not been observed and the person was subsequently missed. As in the case of onshore construction, incomplete walkways and handrails, heavy dependence on vertical ladders, extensive use of scaffolding, and temporary works, all contribute significantly to the hazards.

3.4. It has not been possible to compare accurately offshore and onshore construction accident statistics since the offshore data does not adequately reflect variables such as fluctuations in the construction population and offshore work cycles, nor are the statistics derived on a common basis. The impression gained is that there are close similarities for construction work offshore and onshore. However there are particular aspects of offshore construction that may tend to increase the degree of hazard such as:

3.4.1. The design necessity of restricting deck size resulting in a large construction force of mixed functions and different contractors working in close proximity.