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ACT OF 8 JUNE 1984, NO. 61, RELATING TO A PERMANENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN THE EVENT OF DIVING ACCIDENTS

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§ 1

When the Commission shall become active

In the event of loss of life or assumed loss of life in connection with professional diving operations, the accident shall be investigated by a permanent Commission of Inquiry for diving accidents. It is therefore not necessary to hold a Maritime Inquiry. The investigation may apply only to diving accidents

- a) in the realm,
- b) on the Norwegian continental shelf in connection with the exploration for, extraction and exploitation of submarine natural resources,
- c) in Norway's economic zone when diving from Norwegian ships or offshore units which are Norwegian or entered in a Norwegian register.

The Chairman of the Commission shall decide, in consultation with the authorities concerned, whether the investigation may be omitted when the course of events and cause of the accident are clear in any case, or will

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presumably be clarified according to the rules for Maritime Inquiries, or by ordinary investigation.

8 2

The composition of the Commission

The members of the Commission shall represent adequate legal, technical and medical expertise. The Chairman shall have the qualifications necessary for a supreme court judge.

The members of the Commission and their deputies shall be appointed by the Ministry for a term of four years at a time. The Ministry may in addition appoint one or more members for the individual case.

8 3

Regulations concerning the Commission, etc.

The King shall lay down regulations concerning the Commission and its inquiries and may more specifically define which accidents are to be investigated by the Commission pursuant to § 1. In other respects, the rules governing Maritime Inquiries apply to the inquiries conducted by the Commission, in so far as they are applicable.

The Commission may require the owner of the rights, shipowner, employer and others who are concerned in the accident, to provide the Commission with information which may be of importance for the inquiry, and to make available documents, equipment and other objects at a place suitable for holding the inquiry.

8 4

The relation to Svalbard

The King shall decide whether and to what extent this Act shall apply to Svalbard.

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The Act enters into force from the date decided by the King.