



Briefings of IMO Meeting

NCSR 6 (16 ~25 January 2019)

No. IMO-0002-2019

BRIEFING STATUS

Flash

Briefings of IMO Meeting are sequentially released by 2 steps as *Flash* - *Final*.

(For sub-committee only 1 step as Flash)

Subject: Newsflash of NCSR 6

The Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (hereinafter referred to as "NCSR") held its sixth session at IMO HQ from 16 to 25 January 2019. In this regard, please be informed of the main issues and summary of NCSR 6 as below. In reviewing this flash, readers should be assured that the outputs written herein are not legally effective until they are adopted as mandatory instruments by MSC.

1. NAVIGATION (Agenda item 7, 8, 10, 22)

* Agenda item 7 & 8 are related to e-Navigation

Guidelines on standardized modes of operations (S-Mode)

(Agenda item 7)

- The draft guidelines on S-Mode was developed by correspondence group under the coordination of Australia. And NCSR 6 reviewed and completed the 'draft guidelines on standardized modes on operation (S-Mode)' for approval by MSC 101.
- The NCSR 6 agreed to revise the "Amended guidelines for the presentation of navigational-related symbols, terms and abbreviations (SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.1)" with reflection of appendix 2 of the guidelines (Navigation-related terminology and icons of functions).
- The NCSR 6 agreed to revise the "Performance standards for the presentation of navigation-related information on shipborne navigational displays(Res.MSC.191(79))" for considering appendix 2(Navigation-related



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terminology and icons of functions) and 3(Local grouping of information) of guidelines.

* For Radar, ECDIS and INS(Integrated Navigation Systems), the revised standards will be applied to equipment installed on or after 1 January 2024; and for all other navigational displays on the bridge of a ship, it will be applied on or after 1 July 2025.

Develop guidance on definition and harmonization of the format and structure of maritime service portfolios (MSPs) (Agenda item 8)

- The draft guidance on e-Nav maritime service and 16 descriptions of each maritime service were developed in IMO/IHO HGDM* 2(Oct.2018). And these guidance and descriptions were agreed in NCSR 6 with small revision. And also the Sub-Committee agreed that the guidance will be submitted to MSC for adoption as Resolution and, taking into account its continuous update and further development, the descriptions of maritime service will be submitted to MSC for approval as Circular.

* IMO-IHO Harmonization Group on Data Modeling

- Even though the development of guidance on maritime service was finalized, for revision and further development of descriptions of maritime services in future, the NCSR 6 agreed to contain the agenda regarding 'Consideration of descriptions of Maritime Services in the context of e-navigation' as next biennial agenda(2020~2021).

Consequential work related to the new Polar Code (Agenda item 10)

- NCSR 6 considered the report of the Correspondence Group submitted by Germany, containing draft "Guidance for navigation and communication



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equipment intended for use on ships operating in polar waters" in support of the implementation of the Polar Code.

- NCSR 6 also considered the inclusion of Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) and forward looking capability of echo-sounder in the draft guidance. After discussion, it concluded that these recommendations should not be included in the draft guidance considering its scope of application.
- This guidance gives recommendations on general requirements and specific performance standards for navigation and communication equipment intended for use on ships operating in polar waters.

In principle, this guidance is recommendatory and applied on a voluntary basis and should not impact existing approvals for relevant equipment.

- NCSR 6 agreed to submit this draft guidance to MSC 101 for approval.

Testing of float-free recording medium capsules (Agenda item 22)

- NCSR 6 considered a proposal on amendments to the Guidance on annual testing of VDRs and S-VDRs(MSC.1/Circ.1222) to resolve apparent gaps in MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.1 regarding the testing of the float-free recording medium capsule in VDRs as per Res.MSC.333(90).
- After discussion, NCSR 6 agreed VDR float-free capsules should be tested in accordance with MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.1 and updated the MSC.1/Circ.1222 accordingly. It will be submitted to MSC 101 for approval.

2. COMMUNICATIONS (Agenda item 11)

Revision of SOLAS chapters III and IV for Modernization of the GMDSS,



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including related and consequential amendments to other existing instruments (2021) (Agenda item 11)

- NCSR 6 considered the report of the Correspondence Group on the Modernization of the GMDSS submitted by the United States, containing draft amendments to SOLAS chapters III and IV.
- It is expected that these revisions to SOLAS chapters III and IV will be finalized by 2021 through an intersessional correspondence group and adopted by 2022 and should enter into force 1 January 2024.

3. SEARCH AND RESCUE (Agenda item 15)

Revised performance standards for EPIRBs operating on 406 MHz (Res.A.810(19)) to include COSPAS-SARSAT MEOSAR and second generation beacons (Agenda item 15)

- NCSR 6 discussed on amendments to EPIRB performance standards in order to incorporate the Medium-Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR) satellite service, add references for second-generation 406 MHz beacons, include an AIS locating signal, add a GNSS(Global Navigation Satellite System) receiver and update out of date references.
- NCSR 6 agreed to submit this draft amendments to MSC 101 for adoption.

4. UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS (Agenda item 19)

Unified interpretation of provisions of IMO safety, security, and environment-related Conventions (Agenda item 19)



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○ **Requirements in part I-A of the Polar Code regarding the survival craft and rescue boat communication equipment of ships intended to operate in low air temperatures**

▷ NCSR 6 discussed this UI regarding the operation and availability of mandatory communication equipment for survival support required by the provisions in the Polar Code, part I-A, para. 10.2.2.3 and 10.3.2.3.

▷ The UI clarifies the number of communication devices for survival craft and the terms '*shall maintain capability for*', '*shall be capable of operation during the maximum expected time of rescue*' and '*available for operation during the maximum expected time of rescue*'.

▷ NCSR 6 agreed, taking into account the draft guidance under agenda item 10, that it should be integrated into the Guidance and not as a standalone unified interpretation circular. On this basis, it concluded this interpretation should be inserted in appendix 2 of the Guidance, as appropriate.

▷ This guidance containing the UI will be submitted to MSC 101 for approval.

○ **Battery validity dates for survival craft portable two-way VHF radios**

▷ It proposes that the derivation of the battery expiry date in Res.MSC.149(77) "*Performance standards for survival craft portable two-way VHF radios*" should be clearly defined in ensure that the underlying requirement cannot be exploited to obtain commercial advantage at the expense of safety.



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▷ NCSR 6 supported the opinion that it should be amendment to relevant resolution rather than developing UI of resolution. However, due to time constraints, NCSR 6 did not consider this UI.

- The end -

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