

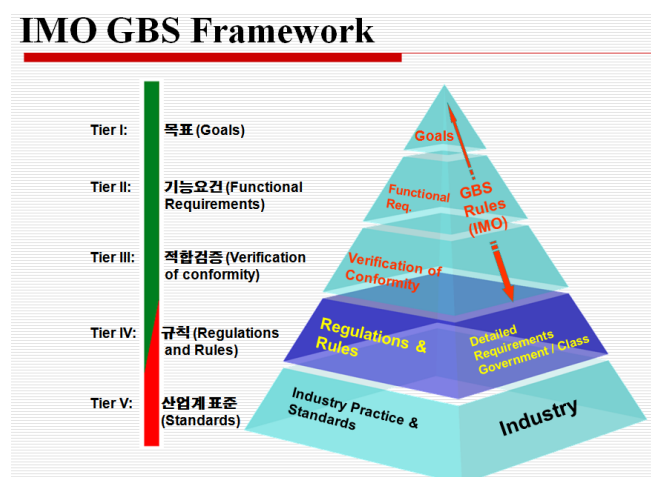
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Subject: Newsflash of SSE 4

The Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE) held its fourth session at IMO HQ from 20 to 24 March 2017. In this regard, please be informed of the main issues and summary of SSE 4 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. SAFETY OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE GUIDELINES ON ALTERNATIVE DESIGN AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOLAS CHAPTERS II-1 AND III (Agenda 3)

o As instructed by MSC 95, the Sub-Committee discussed a development of functional requirements for SOLAS chapter III, based on the Generic guidelines for developing IMO goal-based standards (MSC.1/Circ.1394/Rev.1).



* Goals for SOLAS Chapter .III : Save and maintain human life during and after an emergency situation. (SSE 2/6)

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o The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Correspondence Group on the Development of Functional Requirements and Expected Performance* for SOLAS chapter III, which were further reviewed and developed through working group in this session.

o The Sub-Committee agreed to the draft functional requirements and expected performance for SOLAS chapter III with a view to submission to MSC 98 for its consideration.

* Expected Performance : description of the necessary function in quantitative terms. This description should cover all aspect necessary for verifying compliance and the conditions under which these have to be reached

2. MAKING THE PROVISIONS OF MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 MANDATORY (Agenda 4)

o The Sub-Committee agreed that the purpose of the revised guidelines is to ensure the safe conduct of drills and that as testing of lifeboats is dealt with in other IMO instruments references to testing were removed from the draft guidelines.

o The Sub-Committee reviewed and finalized the draft Guidelines on safety during abandon ship drills using lifeboats. It was agreed to the draft guideline and the associated MSC circular with a view to submitting to MSC 98 for approval

o Following some minor editorial improvements, the Sub-Committee agreed to the draft amendments to the Guidelines for developing operation and maintenance manuals for lifeboat systems (MSC.1/Circ.1205) and the associated draft MSC circular with a view to submitting to MSC 98 for approval.



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3. UNIFORM IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH 6.1.1.3 OF THE LSA CODE (Agenda 5)

- MSC 96 considered amendment of paragraph 6.1.1.3 of LSA Code so as to facilitate its uniform implementation.
- The Sub-Committee considered acceptance of manual means for the launching of rescue boats, which are not one of the ship's survival craft.
- As use of hand-operated mechanism simplifies davit construction and improves the reliability, the Sub-Committee finalized an amendment of paragraph 6.1.1.3 to allow hand-operated mechanism.
- The proposed amendments will be considered at MSC 98 for approval.

4. REVIEW THE MODU CODE, LSA CODE AND MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 (Agenda 6)

- The Sub-Committee had for its consideration document SSE 4/6 containing the consolidated draft amendments to the 2009 MODU Code, including an associated draft MSC resolution, based on the outcome of SSE 3.
- The Sub-Committee endorsed the draft amendments to the 2009 MODU Code, together with the associated draft MSC resolution, for submission to MSC 98 with a view to adoption. These draft amendments to the 2009 MODU Code will apply to new units only.

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5. AMENDMENTS TO THE FSS CODE FOR CO2 PIPELINES IN UNDER-DECK PASSAGEWAYS (Agenda 7)

- MSC 96 had agreed to include a new output in the provisional agenda of the Sub-Committee on "Amendments to the FSS Code for CO2 pipelines in under-deck passageways", with a view to amending the existing paragraph 2.1.3.1 of chapter 5 of the FSS Code.
- The Sub-Committee reviewed the proposals but could not reach any agreement, concluding that no action would be taken at this time. This agenda item will be extended for one year and Member States are invited to submit additional information to SSE 5.

6. REQUIREMENTS FOR ONBOARD LIFTING APPLIANCES AND WINCHES (Agenda 8)

- Having noted a number of accident involving onboard lifting appliance, some of which have resulted in fatalities over the last 10 years, the Sub-Committee has been discussing a mandatory application of measures for onboard lifting appliances and winches through the amendment to SOLAS regulation and development of relevant guideline.
- After considerable discussion, The Sub-Committee agreed that the new provisions for onboard lifting appliances and winches should be included in SOLAS chapter II-1.
- There is still substantial work to be done to develop the draft goal and function based SOLAS regulations including possible additional definitions. It is anticipated that the SOLAS requirements will be finalized at SSE 5 along with the draft

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guidelines. To this end the intersessional correspondence group was re-established to continue the work and report to SSE 5.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR VESSELS WITH DYNAMIC POSITIONING (DP) SYSTEMS (MSC/CIRC.645) (Agenda 9)

- SSE 3 had re-established the correspondence group on amendments to the guidelines for vessels with dynamic positioning systems(MSC/Circ.645) with a view to finalizing the draft guidelines and submit a report to SSE 4.
- The Sub-Committee reviewed and finalized the draft amendments for submission to MSC 98 for approval. These guidelines will be applicable to new ships and new units from a date to be decided by MSC.

8. REVISION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR ESCAPE ROUTE SIGNS AND EQUIPMENT LOCATION MARKINGS IN SOLAS AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS (Agenda 10)

- SSE 3 considered proposals for harmonizing the requirements of SOLAS regulations II-2/13, III/9, III/11 and III/20 taking into account the ISO standard 24409 series on "designs, location and use of shipboard safety signs, safety-related signs, safety notices and safety markings" and decided to reflect the ISO standards in an IMO instrument which will incorporate the graphical symbols without any changes.
- The Sub-Committee finalized and endorsed the draft escape route signs and equipment location markings together with the associated draft assembly resolution for submission to MSC 98 for approval.

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9. REVISED SOLAS REGULATIONS II-1/13 AND II-1/13-1 AND OTHER RELATED REGULATIONS FOR NEW SHIPS (Agenda 11)

o The Sub-Committee considered the report of the correspondence group and decided that while it was considered important work there was insufficient information on which to base a work plan or specific outcome. The sub-committee will request that MSC extends the deadline for this work into the next biennium and member states were invited to submit proposals to SSE 5.

10. UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF PROVISIONS OF IMO SAFETY, SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENT RELATED CONVENTIONS (Agenda 12)

The Sub-Committee agreed to the draft MSC circular on Unified interpretations, for submission to MSC 98 with a view to approval.

[Unified interpretation on single fall and hook system used for launching a lifeboat or rescue boat]

o The Sub-Committee agreed that the release mechanism test in paragraphs 6.9.3 and 6.9.4.3 of part 1 of the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)), need to be applied for off-load type release mechanisms only on the basis of the exemption provided in paragraph 4.4.7.6.17 of the LSA Code, as amended by resolution MSC.320(89).

[Unified interpretation of provisions relating to inert gas systems on tankers]

o The Sub-Committee reviewed the interpretations regarding the automatic shutdown of the inert gas system and its component parts, operational status of valves for inert gas to cargo tanks, indication of the operational status of the inert

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gas system, and the term "independent alarm system", agreed to all the proposed interpretation.

[Unified interpretation on the fire integrity of the bulkheads between the wheelhouse and the navigation lockers inside the wheelhouse]

o The Sub-Committee endorsed the draft unified interpretation of SOLAS regulations II-2/9.2.2.4.2, II-2/9.2.3.3.2 and II-2/9.2.4.2.2 relating to the fire integrity of the bulkhead between the wheelhouse and a navigation locker inside the wheelhouse and the associated draft MSC circular, for submission to MSC 98 with a view to approval.

[Unified interpretation on suitable means for the calibration of portable atmosphere testing instruments as referred to in SOLAS regulation II-2/4.5.7.1]

o The Sub-Committee endorsed the draft unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation II-2/4.5.7.1 relating to the provision of suitable means for the calibration of portable instruments for measuring oxygen or flammable vapour concentrations and the associated draft MSC circular, for submission to MSC 98 with a view to approval.

[Application of SOLAS regulation II-2/20.6.2 and MSC.1/Circ.1275 regarding the arrangement of portable fire extinguishers for ro-ro spaces and vehicle spaces]

o Having agreed that the mandatory SOLAS requirement prevails over the non-mandatory interpretation in the MSC circular, the Sub-Committee endorsed the draft corrigendum to the unified interpretation of SOLAS chapter II-2 on the number and arrangement of portable fire extinguishers on board ships. The secretariat would issue it as MSC.1/Circ.1275/Corr.1.



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11. REVIEW SOLAS CHAPTER II-2 AND ASSOCIATED CODES TO MINIMIZE THE INCIDENCE AND CONSEQUENCES OF FIRES ON RO-RO SPACES AND SPECIAL CATEGORY SPACES OF NEW AND EXISTING RO-RO PASSENGER SHIPS (Agenda 13)

- o MSC 97 agreed to include a new output in the provisional agenda for SSE 4.
- o The Sub-Committee developed a draft scope of the work to be undertaken and the necessary work plan which will submit to MSC 98 for agreement.

The following five main task :

1. Prevention/Ignition
2. Detection and Decision
3. Extinguishment
4. Containment
5. Integrity of LSA and Evacuation

12. DEVELOP NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR VENTILATION OF SURVIVAL CRAFTS (Agenda 14)

- o MSC 97 agreed to include a new output in the provisional agenda for SSE 4.
- o After some considerable discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed that passive means of ventilation should not be excluded provided that it met the required performance standard. However, the Sub-Committee was unable to agree on the ventilation volume of air per hour and decided that more information was required before they could finalize the draft amendments to the LSA Code and resolution MSC.81(70).



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SSE 4 (20 Mar. ~ 24 March 2017)

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o In order to progress the work SSE 4 established an intersessional correspondence group and this work will be continued at SSE 5.

13. CONSEQUENTIAL WORK RELATED TO THE NEW POLAR CODE (Agenda 14)

o MSC 97 instructed the SSE Sub-Committee to review, adapt and develop new performance standards for life saving appliances, pyrotechnics, survival craft, and fire safety, taking into account the low air temperature and extended duration requirements in the Polar Code.

o The Sub-Committee prepared a workplan to address any additional requirements related to life saving appliances and arrangements on board ships operating in polar waters. It is expected that the work plan will be agreed at MSC 98 and continued through an intersessional correspondence group that will report to SSE 5.

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