



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alan Spackman, Vice President, Offshore Technical and Regulatory Affairs

SUBJECT: Report on 87th Session of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee

DATE: 20 July 2010

The 87th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 87) was held from 12 to 21 May 2010 under the chairmanship of Mr. N. Ferrer (Philippines). The session was attended by representatives of: 107 Member States; 2 Associate Members; 4 United Nations Agencies; 8 Intergovernmental Organizations; and 41 Non-Governmental Organizations. IADC was not represented at this session.

The following is a summary of matters considered by the Committee with the potential to impact offshore industry operations:

Adoption of amendments to mandatory instruments

The following new mandatory instruments or amendments to mandatory instruments were adopted:

- The International Goal-based Ship Construction Standards for Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, by resolution MSC.287(87);
- The Performance Standard For Protective Coatings For Cargo Oil Tanks Of Crude Oil Tankers, by resolution MSC.288(87);
- The Performance Standard For Protective Coatings for Alternative Means of Corrosion Protection for Cargo Oil Tanks of Crude Oil Tankers, by resolution MSC.289(87);
- Amendments to the International Convention for The Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 74), regulations II-1/2 and II-1/3-11, making MSC.287(87) mandatory, by resolution MSC.290(87), to enter into force on 1 January 2012;
- Amendments to SOLAS 74, regulation II-1/3-10 (corrosion protection of cargo tanks) and regulation II-2/4 (gas measurement and detection), by resolution MSC.291(87), to enter into force on 1 January 2012;
- Amendments to the International Code For Fire Safety Systems (extraction smoke detection systems, fixed hydrocarbon gas detection systems) by resolution MSC.292(87), to enter into force on 1 January 2012;
- Amendments to the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code (replacing 75 kg by 82.5 kg for survival craft approval), by resolution MSC.293(87), to enter into force on 1 January 2012; and
- Amendments to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (numerous minor amendments), by resolution MSC.294(87), to enter into force on 1 January 2012.

Approval of proposed amendments to mandatory instruments

The following proposed amendments to mandatory instruments were approved:

- Draft amendments to the appendices to revise the Forms for certificates under the 1988 SOLAS Protocol and 1974 SOLAS Convention;
- Draft amendments to SOLAS regulation V/18 to reflect annual testing of the AIS equipment.;
- Draft amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 relating to pilot transfer arrangements;
- Draft amendments to SOLAS regulation VII/4, relating to documentation for dangerous goods carried in packaged form, with intended entry into force on 1 January 2014;
- Draft amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/7.4.1, regarding fixed fire detection and fire alarm systems;
- Draft International Code for the Application of Fire Test Procedures, 2010 (2010 FTP Code); and
- Draft amendments to the International Convention for Safe Containers, 1972, relating to the safety plate.

Information on port facility security plans

SOLAS regulation XI-2/13.4 requires that Contracting Governments shall, at five-year intervals after 1 July 2004, communicate to the Organization a revised and updated list of all approved port facility security plans for the port facilities located in their territory.

The Committee was informed that an assessment of the information in the Maritime Security Module of GISIS had revealed that a significant proportion of the port facilities and locations, declared as being covered by port facility security plans, referred to plans which had been approved by the SOLAS Contracting Government concerned prior to 1 April 2009, and many of those approvals were given prior to 1 July 2004. The assessment found that less than 50 out of the 159 Contracting Governments to SOLAS had provided information updating their port facility security plans since 1 April 2009.

Circulars

The Committee adopted the Circulars listed below. Circulars are normally made available on the IMO website (www.imo.org) by following the link in the column on the left side of the page:

Circular number	Title
MSC.1/Circ.1341	Guidelines for security-related training and familiarization for port facility personnel.
MSC.1/Circ.1342	Reminder in connection with shore leave and access to ships.
MSC.1/Circ.1343	Guidelines for the information to be included in a Ship Construction File.
MSC.1/Circ.1344	Interim continuity of service plan for the LRIT system.
MSC.1/Circ.1345	Unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation II-1/27.5, concerning machinery automatic shut-off arrangements.
MSC.1/Circ.1346	Interpretation of the 2000 HSC Code, concerning the application of the amendments to the 2000 HSC Code adopted by resolution MSC.222(82) to new and existing high-speed craft.
MSC.1/Circ.1347	Guidelines for the assessment of technical provisions for the performance of an in-water survey <i>in lieu</i> of bottom inspection in dry-dock to permit one dry-dock examination in any five-year period for passenger ships other than ro-ro passenger ships.
MSC.1/Circ.1348	Determination of the required safe working load of liferaft launching appliances on passenger ships.

Circular number	Title
MSC.1/Circ.1349	High-speed craft (HSC) compliance with the provisions of SOLAS regulations V/18 to V/20.
MSC.1/Circ.1350	Unified Interpretations of SOLAS regulation V/22.1.6 relating to navigation bridge visibility.
MSC.1/Circ.1352	Amendments to the Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing (CSS Code).
MSC.1/Circ.1353	Revised Guidelines for the preparation of the Cargo Securing Manual.
MSC.1/Circ.1354	Amendments to the Elements to be taken into account when considering the safe stowage and securing of cargo units and vehicles in ships (resolution A.533(13)).
MSC.1/Circ.1359	Information on local regulations.
MSC.1/Circ.1360	Amendments to the Emergency response procedures for ships carrying dangerous goods (EmS Guide).
MSC.1/Circ.1362	Unified interpretation of SOLAS chapter II-1, concerning the occupied volume by flooded water of a flooded space in relation to SOLAS regulation II-1/2.14.
MSC.1/Circ.1364	Revised International SafetyNET Manual.
MSC.1/Circ.1365	Commercially available locating, tracking and emergency notification devices, addressing the emerging technologies in commercially available alerting devices, which fall outside of the established international SAR system.
MSC.1/Circ.1367	Amendments into the IAMSAR Manual (to be applicable on 1 June 2011).
MSC.1/Circ.1368	Interim Clarifications of SOLAS chapter II-2 requirements regarding interrelation between the central control station, navigation bridge and safety centre, to provide additional guidance for the uniform implementation of SOLAS regulation II-2/23, adopted by resolution MSC.216(82), due to enter into force on 1 July 2010.
MSC.1/Circ.1370	Guidelines for the design, construction and testing of fixed hydrocarbon gas detection systems.
MSC.1/Circ.1371	List of codes, recommendations, guidelines and other safety- and security-related non-mandatory instruments.
MSC.1/Circ.1372	Guidance for application of SOLAS regulation II-1/41.6 (pertaining to supplementary lighting).
SN.1/Circ.288	Guidelines for bridge equipment and systems, their arrangement and integration.
SN.1/Circ.289	Guidance on the use of AIS Application-Specific Messages.
SN.1/Circ.290	Guidance for the presentation and display of AIS Application-Specific Messages information.
CSC.1/Circ.138	Revised Recommendations on harmonized interpretation and implementation of the International Convention for Safe Containers, 1972, as amended.
LL.3/Circ.194	Unified interpretations of the 1966 LL Convention and the 1988 LL Protocol as modified by resolution MSC.143(77), concerning permeability of store space in the damage stability calculation and cargo manifold gutter bars-freeing arrangements under relevant regulations.

MSC Resolutions

The Committee adopted the additional MSC Resolutions listed below. These are annexed to the IMO report.

Resolution number	Title
MSC.295(87)	Amendments to the Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances (Resolution MSC.81(70)) (replacing 75 kg by 82.5 kg for survival craft tests).
MSC.297(87)	Establishment of the International LRIT Data Exchange.
MSC.298(87)	Establishment of a distribution facility for the provision of LRIT information to security forces operating in waters of the Gulf of Aden and the western Indian Ocean to aid their work in the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships.
MSC.299(87)	Adoption of amendments to the 2008 SPS Code (to clarify the provisions of paragraphs 5.1, 8.3 and the Record of Equipment for Special Purpose Ship Safety Certificate of the 2008 SPS Code)(effective 14 May 2010).
MSC.300(87)	Amendments to the existing mandatory ship reporting system "In the Strait of Gibraltar" (GIBREP).
MSC.301(87)	Amendments to the existing mandatory ship reporting system "In the Western European Particularly Sensitive Sea Area" (WETREP).
MSC.302(87)	Performance standards for bridge alert management.
MSC.303(87)	Assuring safety during demonstrations, protests, or confrontations on the high seas.
MSC.305(87)	Guidelines on operational procedures for the promulgation of maritime safety information concerning acts of piracy and piracy counter-measure operations.
MSC.306(87)	Revised performance standards for enhanced group call (EGC) equipment.

Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat on-load release mechanisms

In considering the draft MSC circular on Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat on-load release mechanisms, members raised concerns with regard to certain technical aspects thereof, particularly pertaining to the suggested simplified test method (i.e. the hook stability test) and the test criteria, and felt that further consideration and development of the draft Guidelines was necessary.

The Committee recognized that this item, being of a very complex technical nature, had been discussed for several years in the DE Sub-Committee and needed to be concluded comprehensively. It noted that the possible replacement of a large number of hooks would affect the entire world fleet and that all involved parties, e.g., flag States, manufacturers, shipowners, surveyors, etc., needed to work together on this.

It was agreed that an intersessional meeting of an MSC Working Group on Lifeboat Release Hooks should be held from 20 to 22 October 2010 to finalize the draft MSC circular on Guidelines for evaluation and replacement of lifeboat on-load release mechanisms and review the proposed new paragraph 5 of SOLAS regulation III/1 and prepare relevant modifications, as appropriate.

Pilot transfer arrangements

The Committee approved a draft Assembly resolution on Pilot transfer arrangements for submission to the 27th session of the Assembly for adoption.

The Committee considered proposed drafts for an MSC.1 circular to improve the safety of pilot transfer arrangements by encouraging early implementation of the standards, as agreed by the 55th session of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation, for implementation under the amended SOLAS regulation V/23. The Committee agreed the earliest practicable date for dissemination of such information would be after MSC 88, when the amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23 have been adopted and the draft Assembly resolution to replace resolution A.889(21) had been forwarded to A 27. Accordingly, the Committee agreed that it would formally approve and circulate the proposed MSC circular on Improved safety of pilot transfer arrangements at MSC 88.

Amendments to part B of the International Code on Intact Stability, 2008 (2008 IS Code)

Noting that the 2008 IS Code is due to enter into force on 1 July 2010, the Committee approved a draft MSC resolution on Amendments to the International Code on Intact Stability, 2008 (2008 IS Code), to update the reference to the 2009 MODU Code in part B of the 2008 IS Code.

Formal safety assessment

The Committee agreed to establish a Correspondence Group on Formal Safety Assessment (FSA), coordinated by Japan¹, to prepare a draft revised FSA Guidelines (MSC/Circ.1-23 – MEPC/Circ.392, as amended) and prepare a draft revised Guidance on the use of HEAP and FSA relating the ther review of FSA studies (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.6).

Scope of application of SOLAS regulation II-1/41.6

IACS asked the Committee to clarify the applicability of the new SOLAS regulation II-1/41.6 (Main source of electrical power and lighting systems) adopted by resolution MSC.216(82) (annex 3), which is due to enter into force on 1 July 2010. The Committee recognized that the application of the new provision on supplementary lighting was understood as being covered by regulation II-1/1-1, *i.e.* to ships constructed on or after 1 January 2009, while the intention of the Contracting Governments to SOLAS was to apply it to ships constructed on or after 1 July 2010.

To avoid any confusion due to the lack of clear application provisions for the above new requirements on supplementary lighting, the Committee approved MSC.1/Circ.1372 on Guidance for application of SOLAS regulation II-1/41.6. The Committee also approved the draft amendments to SOLAS regulation II-1/41.6 for consideration with a view to adoption at MSC 88.

Approval of new work items

The Committee agreed to the new or reinstated work items listed below.

Subject	Sessions to complete or target date	Assigned to
Revision of the Recommendations for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships.	2011	BLG
"Amendments to SOLAS to mandate enclosed space entry and rescue drills	2012	DSC (lead), BLG
Amendments to the FSS Code for communication equipment for fire-fighting teams	2012	FP

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Subject	Sessions to complete or target date	Assigned to
Measures to avoid false distress alerts	Two sessions	COMSAR (lead), NAV
Revision of the Recommendation on conditions for the approval of servicing stations for inflatable liferafts	One session	DE
Development of guidelines for use of fibre reinforced plastic (FRP) within ship structures	2013	DE (lead), FP
Development of unified interpretations for the term "approved seagoing service"	2011	STW

Future amendment of the 2009 MODU Code

The Committee noted that the 26th session of assembly had, in the context of resolution A.1023(26) – Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, 2009 (2009 MODU Code), requested the Committee to amend the 2009 MODU Code, as appropriate, taking into consideration developments in design and technology, in consultation with appropriate organizations.

Arrangements for future sessions

The 88th session is tentatively scheduled to take place from 24 November to 3 December 2010. The 89th session is tentatively scheduled to take place in May 2011.

Committee agreed that working or drafting groups should be established on the following items at its 88th session:

- LRIT; and
- The human element.

A group on Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) may also be established.

For those wishing further detail, the Committee's report, and its annexes, will be made available (as released by IMO) on the IADC website at: <http://www.iadc.org/committees/offshore/IMO.html>.

Some of the Circulars are not included in the Committee's report. These are generally made available on the public portion of the IMO's website. If they cannot be located, they can be provided by IADC, upon request.

Please feel free to contact me by phone (+1 713 292 1964) or e-mail (alan.spackman@iadc.org) for further information or with any questions you may have regarding this report.