

13 Oct 2021

To : Whom It May Concern

Subject : Summary Report on IMO Meeting of Maritime Safety Committee 104th Session (MSC 104)

Summary

This Technical Information summarizes the result of 104th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 104) that was held from the 04 to 08 Oct 2021, at the IMO headquarters in London.

Information

1. The information provided in this Technical Information are the ones which have high relevance with the work of BKI or considered as an essential information for interested parties.
2. The following agenda are among those discussed during the meeting :

Agenda Number	Topic
3	Consideration and adoption of amendments to mandatory instruments
5	Measures to Improve Domestic Ferry Safety
15	Work Programme <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New Output for development guidance Remote Survey2. New Output for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ship (MASS)
-	List of MSC Resolutions adopted by MSC 104
-	List of MSC Circular adopted by MSC 104

3. The Agenda above are several technical issues discussed during the meeting. A brief coverage among the issues are expressed in the attached document.

More info

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BRIEF INFORMATION ON IMO MEETING OF MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE 104TH SESSION (MSC 104)

A. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS (Agenda item 3)

Under this agenda, the following regulations were adopted by the Committee:

- MSC resolution on Amendments to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, regarding watertight doors on cargo ships.
- MSC resolution on Amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code) regarding watertight doors on cargo ships.

In addition, the amendments to the LSA Code on ventilation requirements for totally enclosed lifeboats were considered to be approved, particularly for the draft amendments to the LSA Code and the Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (resolution MSC.81(70)). The Committee agreed to postpone further consideration until the draft amendments to the Revised recommendation were complete, so that SSE Subcommittee could be submitted to the Committee for consideration as a package, together with the draft amendments to the LSA Code regarding ventilation requirements for survival craft. It was also agreed that those draft amendments will be considered under the ad-hoc mid-term cycle, and once approved and adopted are expected to enter into force 1 January 2026.

B. MEASURES TO IMPROVE DOMESTIC FERRY SAFETY (Agenda item 5)

The Committee recalled that MSC 103 has approved in principle the basic structure of the Model Regulations on Domestic Ferry Safety and agreed to establish a working group to further develop the model regulation using document MSC 103/8, annex 1 as the base document.

Establishment Working Group

MSC 104 established the Working Group on Domestic Ferry Safety in order to discuss the draft Model Regulation on Domestic Ferry taking into account documents MSC 103/8, annex 1 and other documents submitted by member State.

During the discussion, the following views are expressed

1. Although this Model Regulation might not be of beneficial to some countries, the model regulation will be remaining a product adopted by Maritime Safety Committee.
2. The use of term "recognized organization" was preferable and familiar, even though the RO Code is not applicable to domestic ferries.
3. The Model Regulation would be the prerogative of the countries concerned to be adopted into national legislation as appropriate.

4. The Explanatory Manual to the Model Regulation on Domestic Ferry Safety would provide which contains explanations to the provisions including guidance on incorporation of the model regulation into national legislation and reference to best practices where appropriate.
5. The definitions of the term within model regulations.
6. Any provisions which might criminalize the crew need to be avoided.
7. The provision related to bilateral or multilateral agreement should not form part of the model regulations and could be incorporated in the explanatory manual and MSC resolution.

MSC resolution on adoption of the model regulations

A draft MSC resolution on adoption of the Model Regulations on Domestic Ferry Safety will be prepared by the Committee, for consideration at MSC 105.

Need for a correspondence group on domestic ferry safety

The establishment of the Correspondence group on Domestic Ferry Safety is not needed at the time.

Finally, MSC 104 has approved the Model Regulation on Domestic Ferry and will be submitted to MSC 105 for adoption.

C. WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda item 16)

Remote surveys, ISM Code audit and ISPS Code verifications.

In the previous meeting of MSC 102, considered the proposal to develop guidance on remote surveys and invited interested member states and international organizations to submit a new output proposal to the MSC 104.

At this session, some of submission's proposal had been accepted by the Committee for further consideration.

During the discussion, the Committee noted the following matters inter alia

1. Technical aspects of remote and in-person surveys, ISM Code and ISPS Code verifications.
2. Categories and timing of surveys, ISM Code audit and ISPS Code verifications which could be conducted remotely.
3. Avoidance of additional burdens for shipowners, managers and crew in the management and operation of ships.
4. Cooperation between the Sub-Committee of III and HTW on the matter.

Finally, the Committee agreed to include a new output on "Development of guidance on assessments and application of remote surveys, ISM Code and ISPS Code verifications, in the biennial agenda of the III Sub-Committee for 2022-2023 and the provisional agenda for III 8.

Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS)

Following the meeting of MSC 103 which invited Member States and international organization to submit output proposals on the best way to address MASS in the regulatory framework to this session, the Committee has accepted some proposal regarding proposal to introduce of MASS to the IMO Instruments taking into account the outcome of the Regulatory Scoping Exercise (RSE).

After the depth discussion, the Committee agreed to prepare a draft road map for development of MASS operation for consideration at MSC 105. The draft road map includes scope, steps and timeline as well as the coordination of work with other IMO bodies, taking into account the documents submitted and comments made at the session.

The Committee also agreed to include a new output “Development of a goal-based instrument for maritime autonomous surface ships (MASS) in the biennial agenda for 2022-2023 with target completion year of 2025.

Remaining proposal for new outputs

Due to time constraints of this session, the remaining proposal for a new output was to be postponed for further consideration at MSC 105.

D. LIST OF MSC RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY MSC 103

1. Resolution MSC on Amendments to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (1988 Load Lines Protocol).
2. Resolution MSC on Amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code).
3. Resolution MSC on Amendments to the Performance Standards for Shipborne Simplified Voyage Data Recorders (S-VDRs) (Resolution MSC.163(78)).
4. Resolution MSC on Amendments to the Performance Standards for Shipborne Voyage Data Recorders (VDRs) (Resolution MSC.333(90)).

E. LIST OF MSC CIRCULAR APPROVED BY MSC 104

1. MSC Circular on Guidance on seafarers' training and certification for issuing Administrations, flag States and port States during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. MSC.1/Circ.1163/Rev.13 on Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, confirmed by the Maritime Safety Committee to have communicated information which demonstrates that full and complete effect is given to the relevant provisions of the Convention
3. MSC.1/Circ.1164/Rev.24 on Promulgation of information related to reports of independent evaluation submitted by Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, confirmed by the Maritime Safety Committee to have communicated information which demonstrates that Parties are giving full and complete effect to the relevant provisions of the Convention
4. MSC.1/Circ.797/Rev.36 on List of competent persons maintained by the Secretary-General pursuant to section A-I/7 of the STCW Code
5. SN.1/Circ on Recognition of the Japanese Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS)
6. MSC.1/Circ.1039/Rev.1 on Guidelines for shore-based maintenance of emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs)
7. MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.2 on Guidelines on annual testing of emergency position-indicating radio beacons (EPIRBs)

8. MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.3 on Guidance on the validity of VHF radiocommunication equipment installed and used on ships
9. MSC.1/Circ.1613/Rev.1 on interim Iridium SafetyCast service manual
10. MSC.1/Circ on Deliberate interference with the United States' Global Positioning System (GPS) and other Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)