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**IMO MEETING REPORT**

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| DATE: 20th June 2024 | COMMITTEE: MSC |
| ATTENDEES: Andy Williams | SUB-GROUP: NCSR |

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| This was the 11th session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) held from the 4th to 13th June 2024. I attended remotely on 13th June.  ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE LEISURE/SUPERYACHT INDUSTRY  **Pilot transfer arrangements -** The Sub-Committee finalised draft amendments to SOLAS V/23 “Pilot transfer arrangements” and associated instruments. The Sub-Committee also finalised a draft MSC resolution on performance standards for pilot transfer arrangements including detailed requirements for design, manufacture, construction, rigging, installation of pilot ladder winch reels, operational readiness, onboard inspection and maintenance, familiarization and approval in relation to pilot transfer arrangements required under SOLAS regulation V/23  As stated in the NCSR 10 report, this SOLAS regulation applies to all vessels engaged on voyages on which pilots may be employed and therefore yachts are included. Whilst pilot transfers to and from yachts are often carried out with the pilot stepping directly between the pilot vessel and the yacht via the main deck bulwark door, compliant equipment will still need to be carried in accordance with the regulations.  The above will be submitted to MSC 109 for approval. The new SOLAS regulations will apply to pilot transfer arrangements installed on or after 1 January 2028. Pilot transfer arrangements installed before 1 January 2028 shall comply with parts A, B and C of the performance standards not later than the first annual, periodical or renewal safety equipment survey after 1 January 2029.  Regardless of installation date, all pilot transfer arrangements must undergo inspection, stowage, maintenance, replacement and familiarisation in accordance with parts D and E of the performance standards.  The draft amendments to SOLAS V/23 and the draft performance standards can be found at annexes 2 and 6 respectively of the report of the navigation working group in attached document NCSR 11/WP.7.  **Development of performance standards for a digital navigational data system (NAVDAT) –** It may be recalled from the NCSR 10 report that this is a new system, similar to NAVTEX but providing more comprehensive information, capable of transmitting texts, images, graphs, data etc. which is displayed in a more user-friendly way. Different modes of transmission are available as follows:   * General broadcast to all ships * Selective broadcast – for example, to ships in a specific area or to groups of ships according to MMSI number * Dedicated message to individual vessels based on MMSI number   NAVDAT is expected to work alongside NAVTEX initially and new equipment developed in the future would likely encompass both systems. The Sub-Committee finalized new Performance standards for the reception of maritime safety information (MSI) and search and rescue (SAR) related information by MF and HF digital navigational data (NAVDAT) system as well as approving a draft revision of resolution MSC.509(105) on Provision of radio services for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), which includes criteria for providing a NAVDAT service. The draft resolutions can be found at annexes 3 and 4 respectively of the attached report of the Search and Rescue working group in document NCSR 11/WP.8.  **Electronic nautical publications –** Due to the increasing use of electronic versions of the publications required by SOLAS V/19.2.1.4 and V/19.2.1.5 for voyage planning, display and monitoring, official guidelines are required to ensure consistent global standards. The Sub-Committee agreed to the establishment of a correspondence group to finalise the draft guidelines for ENP use and submit a report to NCSR 12.  **Introduction of VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) - SOLAS amendments in development –** VDES is a radiocommunication system in the VHF maritime mobile band, capable of exchanging digital data faster than AIS (Automatic Identifying System) in the ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore and shore-to-ship directions, using both terrestrial and satellite components. The Communications working group was tasked with considering options for amending SOLAS regulation IV and V to introduce VDES, in lieu of AIS or as an additional carriage requirement.  Following lengthy discussing in the navigation working group, it could not be decided if VDES should be mandated under SOLAS IV and/or V. It was also decided that the implications of replacing AIS by VDES would be significant both for ships and shoreside so the introduction of VDES should not be mandated at this stage.  The Sub-Committee agreed to the voluntary implementation of the VDES, allowing it to run concurrently with AIS pending further technical developments.  Due to time constraints a correspondence group was established to continue the work on SOLAS amendments, draft performance standards for VDES and the draft guidelines for the operational use of shipborne VDES.  If the work is finalised at NCSR 12, the resulting SOLAS amendments will not enter force before 1 January 2028.  The full discussion on this topic in the navigation working group can be found in attached document NCSR 10/WP.7.  **Revised Performance standards for a universal automatic identification system (AIS) agreed –** It has long been known thatAIS is susceptible to manipulation by malicious actors due to its inherently open nature and that the equipment could be freely purchased on the market. However, the Sub-Committee agreed a draft resolution on measures which could serve as a deterrent and make such actions more challenging than they were now**.**  The draft resolution on performance standards for a universal shipborne automatic identification system (AIS), provides for enhancing the existing requirement for the entry of the IMO number into the AIS equipment and introducing new requirements for entry of a "unique manufacturer equipment identification number" and an "official flag State number", where the ship has no IMO number. The draft resolution, which is expected to be approved at MSC 109, can be found at annex 3 of the attached report of the communications working group in document NCSR 11/WP.6. The effective date of the resolution is proposed as 1 January 2029to allow time for testing standard development and mass production.  **Draft report:** The draft report of the Sub-Committee is contained in attached document NCSR 11/WP.1/Rev.1.   |  | | --- | | PRINCIPAL ISSUES:  The meeting agenda was as follows:   1. Adoption of the agenda 2. Decisions of other IMO bodies 3. Routeing measures and mandatory ship reporting systems 4. Update to the LRIT system 5. Developments in GMDSS satellite services, including guidelines on Maritime Safety Information (MSI) 6. Response to matters related to the ITU-R Study Groups and ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 7. Development of global maritime SAR services, including harmonization of maritime and aeronautical procedures and amendments to the IAMSAR Manual 8. Development of performance standards for a digital navigational data system (NAVDAT) 9. Development of amendments to SOLAS chapters IV and V and performance standards and guidelines to introduce VHF data exchange system (VDES) 10. Review of the appropriateness and effectiveness of SOLAS regulation IV/5 (Provision of radiocommunication services) 11. Revision of the criteria for the provision of mobile satellite communication services in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) (resolution A.1001(25)) 12. Development of guidelines for the use of electronic nautical publications (ENP 13. Revision of SOLAS regulation V/23 and associated instruments to improve the safety of pilot transfer arrangements 14. Identification of measures to improve the security and integrity aspects of AIS 15. Unified interpretation of provisions of IMO safety, security, environment, facilitation, liability and compensation-related conventions 16. Biennial status report and provisional agenda for NCSR 12 17. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025 18. Any other business 19. Report to the Maritime Safety Committee   Three working groups and one experts group were established as follows:   1. The Communications Working Group. The terms of reference of this group were:   Agenda item 4 – Updates to the LRIT system   1. Consider the proposals in document NCSR 11/4/5 regarding measures to enhance the monitoring of the performance of LRIT shipborne equipment, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.   Agenda item 6 – Response to matters related to the ITU-R Study Groups and ITU World Radiocommunication Conference   1. Consider document NCSR 11/6/6 concerning the proposed draft amendments to table 53 (ship types) of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5; and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 2. Prepare draft terms of reference for the twentieth meeting of the IMO/ITU Experts Group on Maritime Radiocommunication Matters, provisionally scheduled to take place during the week of 7 to 11 October 2024 and advise the Sub-Committee on the number of days required for the meeting. 3. If time permits, consider the proposed draft liaison statement to ITU on the matter of blockage to AIS signals caused by VHF radiotelephony (NCSR 11/6/5) and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.   Agenda item 10 – Review of the appropriateness and effectiveness of SOLAS regulation IV/5 (Provision of radiocommunication services)   1. Review the appropriateness and effectiveness of SOLAS regulation IV/5 (Provision of radiocommunication services), taking into account the background information provided in document NCSR 11/10, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.   Agenda item 11 – Revision of the Criteria for the provision of mobile satellite communication services in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) (resolution A.1001(25))   1. Finalize the draft revision of resolution A.1001(25) on Criteria for the provision of mobile satellite communication systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) based on annex 2 to document NCSR 11/11/1, taking into account the comments provided in documents NCSR 11/6 and NCSR 11/11/2, as appropriate, noting the preference for option 2 under section 1.3 (Legacy services) as a guidance, and the decisions of MSC 108 (MSC 108/WP.1/Rev.1, paragraph 12.26.1), and prepare the requisite resolution for approval by the Sub-Committee.   Agenda item 14 – Identification of measures to improve the security and integrity aspects of AIS   1. Consider documents NCSR 11/14, NCSR 11/14/1, NCSR 11/14/2 and NCSR 11/9/1, taking also into account the recommendations of the IMO/ITU Experts Group (NCSR 11/6), and advise the Sub-Committee on possible measures to improve the security and integrity aspects of AIS, as appropriate.   Agenda item 18 – Any other business   1. consider document NCSR 11/18/4, concerning the carriage of VHF communication equipment, including the proposed amendments to MSC.1/Circ.1460/Rev.4, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 2. The Navigation Working Group. The terms of reference of this group were:   Agenda item 9 – Development of amendments to SOLAS chapters IV and V and performance standards and guidelines to introduce VHF Data Exchange System (VDES)   1. Consider the report of the Correspondence Group on VDES (NCSR 11/9), taking into account the comments and proposals in documents NCSR 11/6, NCSR 11/9/1 and NCSR 11/9/2, and:   .1 Consider options .1, .3 and .5 for amending SOLAS regulation V/19.2.4 to introduce VDES, in lieu of AIS or as an additional carriage requirement, as set out in paragraph 12 of document NCSR 11/9; and advise the Sub-Committee on the advantages and disadvantages of mandating or not mandating the carriage requirement of VDES.  .2 Further progress the preparation of draft amendments to SOLAS chapter V, including consequential amendments, if necessary, to the forms of certificates and records of equipment and associated instruments.  .3 If time permits, consider further the need for amendments to SOLAS chapter IV for possible VDES functionalities and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.  .4 Further progress the development of draft performance standards for VDES and the draft guidelines for the operational use of shipborne VDES; and  .5 Prepare draft terms of reference for a correspondence group to continue the work intersessionally for finalization at NCSR 12, subject to the Committee's agreement to extend the output completion year of the associated output.  Agenda item 12 – Development of guidelines for the use of electronic nautical publications (ENP)   1. Consider the proposed draft guidelines on installation and use of electronic nautical publications (NCSR 11/12) and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.   Agenda item 13 – Revision of SOLAS regulation V/23 and associated instruments to improve the safety of pilot transfer arrangements   1. Finalize the draft amendments to SOLAS regulation V/23, based on annex 2 to document NCSR 11/13, taking into account documents NCSR 11/13/6 and NCSR 11/13/7. 2. Finalize the draft performance standards on pilot transfer arrangements, based on annex 3 to document NCSR 11/13, taking into account documents NCSR 11/13/3, NCSR 11/13/6, NCSR 11/13/7 and NCSR 11/INF.7, as appropriate. 3. If time permits, consider document NCSR 11/13/4 on height climb on a pilot ladder, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 4. Prepare the draft check/monitoring sheet for the revision of SOLAS regulation V/23 based on annex 4 to document NCSR 11/13, including the assessment of capacity-building implications taking into account the guidance in MSC.1/Circ.1500/Rev.3, giving also due consideration to paragraph 5.4 (Status of footnotes) of the above-mentioned Guidance when drafting footnotes for inclusion in mandatory instruments. 5. Consider documents NCSR 11/13/1 and NCSR 11/13/5 concerning the draft revision of MSC.1/Circ.1428 and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 6. Consider document NCSR 11/13/2 on early implementation of the revisions to SOLAS regulation V/23, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.   Agenda item 18 – Any other business   1. Consider the draft revision of SN.1/Circ.297 on IALA Maritime Buoyage System, as set out in document NCSR 11/18/1, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 2. Consider the updates to SN.1/Circ.296 on Degree of risk evaluation, as set out in document NCSR 11/18/2, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 3. The Search and Rescue and other Technical Matters Working Group. The terms of reference of this group were:   Agenda item 5 – Developments in GMDSS services, including guidelines on maritime safety information (MSI)   1. Taking into account the relevant decisions of MSC 108 (MSC 108/WP.1/Rev.1, paragraphs 12.25 and 12.26):   .1 Consider options to amend the SOLAS Convention, including any necessary consequential amendments to related instruments, to clearly state the requirement for dissemination of MSI SAR-related information through all operational recognized mobile satellite services, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate; and  .2 Finalize the revision of resolution A.707(17) on Charges for distress, urgency and safety messages through the Inmarsat system, using as basis the draft MSC resolution agreed, in principle, by NCSR 7 (NCSR 7/WP.5, annex 6) and prepare the requisite resolution for approval by the Sub-Committee.  Agenda item 7 – Development of global maritime SAR services, including harmonization of maritime and aeronautical procedures and amendments to the IAMSAR Manual   1. Consider the work being progressed intersessionally by the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group (NCSR 11/7, paragraph 2.3) and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate 2. Consider the information and proposals presented in document NCSR 11/7/1 concerning the Global SAR Plan module of GISIS, including the delimitation of the areas for which rescue coordination centres are responsible, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 3. Consider the naming conventions used by maritime, aeronautical or joint rescue coordination centres, taking into account the information provided in document NCSR 11/7, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 4. Prepare a revision of SAR.7/Circ.15 on List of documents and publications which should be held by a Maritime or Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, taking into account document NCSR 11/7/2.   Agenda item 8 – Development of performance standards for a digital navigational data system (NAVDAT)   1. Finalize the draft MSC resolution on Performance standards for the reception of maritime safety information and search and rescue related information by MF and HF digital navigational data (NAVDAT) system and the draft revision of resolution MSC.509(105) on Provision of radio services for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), using annexes 1 and 2, respectively, to document NCSR 11/6 as the base documents, taking into account document NCSR 11/8, as appropriate, for approval by the Sub-Committee; and 2. Consider the remaining work required to be conducted in the context of implementation of the NAVDAT system, taking into account the scope of the output agreed by MSC 103 (MSC 103/21, paragraphs 18.17 and 18.18), the outcome of MSC 108 (MSC 108/WP.1/Rev.1, paragraph 12.9) and the road map of elements regarding the introduction of the NAVDAT service (NCSR 10/WP.7, annex 1); advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate; and recommend any necessary actions to progress the work intersessionally.   Agenda item 18 – Any other business   1. Taking into account the decisions and views expressed at MSC 108 (MSC 108/WP.1/Rev.1, paragraph 12.10 to 12.16):   .1 consider the development of appropriate operational guidance for route exchange in accordance with operative paragraph 4 of the resolution MSC.530(106)/Rev.1 on Performance standards for electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS) and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate; and  .2 if time permits, consider the issues raised in documents MSC 108/12/4 and MSC 108/12/5, i.e. S-100 implementation matters and training needs of seafarers, taking into account the views expressed at MSC 108 (MSC 108/WP.1/Rev.1, paragraph 12.13) and the additional information provided in document NCSR 11/18/7, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate.   1. The Ships’ Routeing Experts Group. The terms of reference of this group were: 2. Consider document NCSR 11/3 proposing a revision of the existing recommendation on navigation for containerships in traffic separation schemes Off Vlieland, Terschelling-German Bight, Off Friesland and German Bight western approach, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 3. Consider document NCSR 11/3/1 proposing the establishment of a no anchoring area off Hook of Holland, taking into account document NCSR 11/INF.2 and the preliminary assessment in document NCSR 11/WP.3, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. 4. Consider document NCSR 11/3/2 proposing the establishment of two areas to be avoided off the Brazilian southeast coast, taking into account documents NCSR 11/INF.4 and NCSR 11/INF.5 and the preliminary assessment in document NCSR 11/WP.3, and advise the Sub-Committee, as appropriate. | | ATTACHMENTS/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: | |
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