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**IMO MEETING REPORT**

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| DATE: 6 February 2025 | COMMITTEE: MEPC/MSC |
| ATTENDEES: Andy Williams | SUB-GROUP: PPR |

This was the 12th session of the Pollution Prevention and Response Sub-Committee (PPR) from the 27th to 31st January 2025. AW attended remotely on the 27th and 31st .

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| ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE LEISURE/SUPERYACHT INDUSTRY  **Amendments to the 2017 Guidelines addressing additional aspects of the NOx Technical Code 2008 with regard to particular requirements related to marine diesel engines with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) systems (resolution MEPC.291(71), as amended by resolution MEPC.313(74)) –** The Sub-Committee finalised the amendments to the 2017 Guidelines. These will be renamed the 2025 guidelines and are expected to be adopted at MEPC 83 in April this year.  The aim of the amendments was to “update the 2017 SCR Guidelines to remove ambiguities and ensure consistent application, including clarifying the pre-certification procedure and developing additional guidance for certifying SCR arrangements where more than one engine is connected to a common SCR system".  The draft 2025 SCR guidelines along with the associated draft MEPC resolution can be found at annex 2 of the attached report of the working group on prevention of air pollution from ships in document PPR 12/WP.4.  **Revision of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidelines to introduce provisions for record-keeping and measures to confirm the lifetime performance of sewage treatment plants –** It may be recalled that at PPR 11, the Sub-Committee agreed on the priorities and timeline for progressing the work on this item in the following order:   1. Finalisation of the type-approval guidelines (2012 Guidelines on implementation of effluent standards and performance tests for sewage treatment plants (MEPC.227(64)) 2. Revisions to MARPOL Annex IV – to include the requirement for recording discharges, record of maintenance and sewage management plan 3. Finalisation of the implementation guidelines   And that all three should be adopted as a complete package at MEPC88/89 in 2028/29. Post PPR 11, the work has been continued by correspondence group and the report of which was considered at this session 9see attached document PPR 12/10). The progress of the above listed items can be found in the report as follows:   1. Annex 1 – proposed draft amendments to the 2012 Guidelines on implementation of effluent standards and performance tests for sewage treatment plants 2. Annex 3 - proposed draft amendments to MARPOL Annex IV 3. Annex 4 – draft guidance for the development of a Sewage Management Plan   A voluntary data collection period was proposed to gather information on the performance of sewage treatment plants onboard vessels, focusing on effluent discharge quality under MARPOL Annex IV. The PPR sub-committee discussed the best ways to collect data and decided to include this in their current work scope. The correspondence group re-established by PPR will develop draft guidance for collecting effluent discharge quality data and report back to PPR 13. Annex 2 of the report of the correspondence group contains a draft proforma of the information to be captured during the data collection period.  PPR 12 agreed to the re-establishment of the correspondence group with the terms of reference as set out in the annex to the attached report of the drafting group in document PPR 12/WP.6.  **Development of guidance on matters relating to in-water cleaning –** The Sub-Committee agreed to the draft *Guidance on in-water cleaning of ships' biofouling* and the associated draft MEPC circular, set out in annex 1 of the attached report of the working group on marine biosafety in attached document PPR 12/WP.3 with a view to their approval by MEPC 83.  The Sub-Committee also agreed that the following matters should be further considered with a view to developing additional guidance in due course:  • The methodology for testing the compatibility between IWCS and various coating types.  • Methods for assessing the minimum performance standard after IWCS enter into service.  • How to conduct in-water inspections to determine if in-water cleaning is needed.  The Sub-Committee invited interested parties to submit proposals on the above items to PPR 13.  **Reduction of the impact on the Arctic of Black Carbon emissions from international shipping –** The Sub-Committee invited concrete proposals to PPR 13 on the concept of a Polar Fuel Standard and the parameters for consideration. It was suggested the following should form the basis of such a standard:   * Density * Viscosity * Carbon residue content by mass * Cetane index or Cetane number * Pour point.   The discussion around this subject can be found in the attached report of the working group on prevention of air pollution from ships in document PPR 12/WP.4.  **Draft report of the Sub-Committee** – The draft report of the Sub-Committee can be found in attached document PPR 12/WP.1.  PRINCIPAL ISSUES:  The meeting agenda was as follows:   1. Adoption of the agenda 2. Decisions of other IMO bodies 3. Safety and pollution hazards of chemicals and preparation of consequential amendments to the IBC Code 4. Amendments to MARPOL Annex II in order to improve the effectiveness of cargo tank stripping, tank washing operations and prewash procedures for products with a high melting point and/or high viscosity 5. Development of guidance on matters relating to in-water cleaning 6. Reduction of the impact on the Arctic of Black Carbon emissions from international shipping 7. Evaluation and harmonization of rules and guidance on the discharge of discharge water from EGCS into the aquatic environment, including conditions and areas 8. Amendments to the 2017 Guidelines addressing additional aspects of the NOx Technical Code 2008 with regard to particular requirements related to marine diesel engines with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) systems (resolution MEPC.291(71), as amended by resolution MEPC.313(74)) 9. Review of the IBTS Guidelines and amendments to the IOPP certificate and oil record book 10. Revision of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidelines 11. Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships 12. Unified interpretation to provisions of IMO environment-related conventions 13. Biennial status report and provisional agenda for PPR 13 14. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2026 15. Any other business 16. Report to the Marine Environment Protection Committee   Three working groups and two drafting groups were established as follows:   1. Working Group on Marine Biosafety. The terms of reference of this group were:   With regard to agenda item 5   1. Finalize the draft Guidance on in-water cleaning of ships' biofouling, using annex 6 to document PPR 12/5/Rev.1 as the basis, focusing on resolving the matters listed in paragraph 45 of that document and taking into account the comments, proposals and information in documents PPR 12/5/1, PPR 12/5/2, PPR 12/5/3, PPR 12/INF.4, PPR 12/INF.12, PPR 12/INF.13 and PPR 12/INF.16, as appropriate. 2. Consider the way forward with regard to the topics on which it may be important to develop additional guidance in due course, as set out in paragraph 46 of document PPR 12/5/Rev.1, and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly.     With regard to agenda item 15   1. Consider the amendments to the 2023 Guidelines for the development of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials (resolution MEPC.379(80)) proposed in document MEPC 82/16/3, and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly.      1. The Working Group on Prevention of Air Pollution. The terms of reference of the group were:   With regard to agenda item 6   1. If time permits, taking into account the comments and decisions made in plenary, further consider the polar fuels concept taking into account documents PPR 12/6, PPR 12/6/1, PPR 12/6/2 and PPR 12/15 with a view to facilitating the submission of concrete proposals to PPR 13, and take stock of the work so far under this output 3.3 (Reduction of the impact on the Arctic of Black Carbon emissions from international shipping). 2. Further consider the draft terms of reference for the GESAMP Task Team on EGCS set out in document MEPC 82/5/3 (ICS and CLIA), taking into account documents PPR 12/7 (Austria et al.), PPR 12/7/1 (Norway), PPR 12/7/2 (Norway), PPR 12/7/4 (CLIA), PPR 12/INF.11 (Norway), MEPC 82/5/1 (IBIA), MEPC 82/INF.22 (Sweden), MEPC 81/INF.21 (Finland) and MEPC 81/INF.38 (CLIA) and comments made during MEPC 82 (MEPC 82/WP.8, paragraphs 17 to 21), with a view to finalization.   With regard to agenda item 8   1. In accordance with the scope of work agreed by MEPC 80 (MEPC 80/17, paragraph 14.2), consider the proposed amendments to the 2017 SCR Guidelines set out in document PPR 12/8 (Marshall Islands et al.), taking into account the information, comments and proposals set out in documents PPR 12/8/1 (EUROMOT), PPR 12/8/2 (EUROMOT), PPR 12/8/3 (Norway), PPR 12/8/4 (IMarEST) and PPR 12/8/5 (Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and United States), with a view to finalization. 2. The Working Group on Marine Plastic Litter from Ships. The terms of reference for this group were:   With regard to the review of the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships:   1. Conduct a review of the Action Plan on marine plastic litter from ships, taking into account information in documents PPR 12/11/8, PPR 12/11/11, PPR 12/INF.14, MEPC 82/8, MEPC 82/8/3, MEPC 82/8/4, MEPC 81/8, MEPC 81/8/1, PPR 10/13/1, PPR 10/13/2, PPR 10/13/4, PPR 10/13/8, PPR 10/INF.11 and MEPC 79/INF.13, as appropriate. 2. As part of its review of the Action Plan: .    1. Develop text for a specific action concerning the development of mandatory measures to reduce the environmental risks of plastic pellets transported by sea in freight containers.    2. Consider the appropriateness of incorporating the proposals in document MEPC 80/8 into the draft revised Action Plan, taking into account the comments in document PPR 11/13/9, and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly. 3. Prepare an updated grouping of short-, mid-, long-term and continuous actions of the Action Plan using annex 1 to the Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships (resolution MEPC.341(77)) as a basis   With regard to reducing the environmental risk of the maritime transport of plastic pellets:   1. As a first step of the analysis of the potential mandatory instruments that could be amended and the associated implications, compile a table of all documents submitted to the Sub-Committee or MEPC relating to amendments to mandatory instruments and include references to identified advantages and limitations of each approach, as well as potential impacts (e.g. on production practices, the supply chain, transport costs, and harmonization of intermodal transport requirements) to inform future discussions on the most appropriate legal framework for introducing mandatory measures. 2. Consider what further information may be required to complete the analysis and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly. 3. If time permits, further consider documents PPR 12/11/1, PPR 12/11/2, PPR 12/11/3, PPR 12/11/4, PPR 12/11/5, PPR 12/11/6, PPR 12/11/7, PPR 12/11/9, PPR 12/11/10, PPR 11/13/1, PPR 11/13/3, PPR 11/13/7, PPR 11/13/8, PPR 11/13/10 and PPR 11/13/12 with regard to the appropriate instruments that could form the legal basis for mandatory measures to reduce the environmental risks of plastic pellets transported by sea in freight containers.   with regard to reporting the loss or discharge of fishing gear as provided for in regulations 7.1.3 and  7.1.4 of MARPOL Annex V:   1. Agree to the data to be reported to IMO to meet objectives 1 to 3 of the IMO database (as set out in paragraph 21 of document PPR 11/13) that were agreed by PPR 11, including consideration as to whether the additional data identified in paragraph 22 of document PPR 12/11 should be included, and advise the Sub-Committee accordingly. 2. If time permits, further consider whether additional metrics should be reported to IMO regarding the amount of gear lost, the issue of aggregation and anonymization, and the flow of reporting, taking into account the relevant paragraphs of and annex to document PPR 12/11. 3. Consider the need for the establishment of a correspondence group and develop draft terms of reference, as appropriate. 4. The Drafting Group on Carriage of Biofuel Blends by Bunker Ships on MARPOL Annex I Matters. The terms of reference of this group were: 5. Finalize the text of the draft MEPC circular on the Interim guidance on the carriage of blends of biofuels and MARPOL Annex I cargoes by conventional bunker ships, using document PPR 12/3, annex 1, and in accordance with the decisions made in plenary. 6. The Drafting Group on Revision of MARPOL Annex IV. The terms of reference of this group were: 7. Develop draft terms of reference for the re-establishment of the Correspondence Group on Revision of MARPOL Annex IV and Associated Guidelines. |
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| ATTACHMENTS/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: |