



MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
79th session  
Agenda item 14

MSC 79/14/6  
8 October 2004  
Original: ENGLISH

## ROLE OF THE HUMAN ELEMENT

### Ergonomics

#### Submitted by the ICFTU

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document is commenting on the proposal by Liberia for greater consideration of ergonomics within the IMO

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 5

*Related document:* MSC 79/14/2

#### General

1 In document MSC 79/14/2 Liberia refers to the need for greater consideration of ergonomics in the design and construction of ships to prevent accidents to seafarers reduce the incidence of human error.

2 In paragraph 4 there is reference to the recently adopted Guidelines on the ergonomic Criteria for the Bridge Equipment and Layout to improve the reliability and efficiency of navigation and this is widely recognized as a great benefit to the industry.

3 The engine-room space is recognized as a dangerous area to work in and for too long we have accepted designs based on economic or pragmatic solutions with little consideration to workers' safety or the efficiency of the operation. Environmental and ergonomic guidelines for the engine and control spaces should reflect today's expectations and the risks to seafarers operating for long periods within them, often on their own, should be minimized.

4 The ICFTU agrees with the need to address ergonomics and the work environment at a fundamental level and believe this is particularly of importance in the engine-room and associated spaces.

#### Action requested of the Committee

5 The Committee is requested to consider this matter when addressing the issue of ergonomics and the working environment onboard ships.