

SUB-COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS  
GOODS, SOLID CARGOES AND  
CONTAINERS  
17th session  
Agenda item 5

DSC 17/5/1  
19 June 2012  
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**AMENDMENTS TO SOLAS TO MANDATE ENCLOSED SPACE ENTRY  
AND RESCUE DRILLS**

**Compulsory carriage of oxygen meters on board ships**

**Submitted by the Nautical Institute, Intermanager, ITF and IFSMA**

**SUMMARY**

*Executive summary:* This document takes into account remarks made by delegations at DSC 16 and BLG 16 and subsequent discussions by the co-sponsors outlining the concerns that the carriage of oxygen meters is not compulsory on all ships

*Strategic direction:* 5.2

*High-level action:* 5.2.2

*Planned output:* 5.2.2.6

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 7

*Related documents:* BLG 16/16, section 10; and DSC 16/15, section 11

**Background**

1 During the discussions on mandating entry into enclosed space entry and rescue drills on board ships, it became apparent that on certain types of ships there are no statutory requirements to carry oxygen meters on board. This therefore restricts the ability to test spaces on board for safe oxygen levels prior to crew entering these spaces.

2 The Nautical Institute together with the co-sponsors considers that this omission compromises the safety of all seafarers employed on these ships. It is therefore proposed that suitable equipment and continuing training be made a statutory carriage requirement.

3 The Nautical Institute presented a document to DSC 16 on Entry into enclosed spaces on board ship and there was overwhelming support by the delegates for the carriage of oxygen meters on ships that presently are not required to carry them.

4 BLG 16 supported this and in the final report of the Sub-committee (BLG 16/16, paragraph 10.4.1) it was considered that the proposal needed further detailed consideration and invited Member Governments and international organizations to submit comments and proposals to DSC 17.

5 Accordingly, the Nautical Institute and the co-sponsors of this document consider that an appropriate amendment and addition to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended, is necessary to enhance the safety of seafarers serving on ships where the oxygen meter is not a statutory carriage requirement.

6 A suggested addition to SOLAS chapter XI-1 (Special Measures to enhance maritime safety), new regulation 6 can be found in the annex to this document.

**Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the above and take action as appropriate.

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**ANNEX**

**DRAFT SOLAS AMENDMENT**

**CHAPTER XI-1 SPECIAL MEASURES TO ENHANCE MARITIME SAFETY**

**NEW REGULATION 6**

1 Every ship to which chapter 1 applies shall carry an appropriate instrument for measuring the oxygen content of the air.

2 Every ship to which chapter 1 applies shall ensure that crew members are properly trained in the use of such instruments.

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