

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
92nd session
Agenda item 6

MSC 92/6/4
22 March 2013
Original: ENGLISH

PASSENGER SHIP SAFETY

Evacuation analysis

**Submitted by the International Transport Workers' Federation
and the Nautical Institute**

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document comments on the submission MSC 92/6/2 by Germany and Spain on the mandatory simulation of evacuation from passenger ships and subsequent amendments in mandatory instruments such as SOLAS or the FSS Code

Strategic direction: 5.1.1

High-level action: 5.1.1.3

Planned output: No related provisions

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5

Related documents: MSC 92/6/2; MSC.1/Circ.1238 and FP 56/23

1 The ITF and the NI agree with the submission in MSC 92/6/2, that the current voluntary guideline on evacuation of large passenger ships does not satisfy the practical conditions of increasingly large passenger ships and the circular MSC.1/Circ.1238 is too weak to improve the current evacuation problem.

2 The ITF and the NI, however, whilst seeking a mandatory solution do not agree that a solution can be confined to an improved design that allows the intuitive flow of passengers and consider that in practice it is necessary for the substantial assistance of crew to be included in the analysis. Given the large number of elderly and partially mobile passengers that may be travelling, it is unrealistic to expect that any design can be easy and simplistic enough to be fully understood and accessible to all passengers.

3 In FP 56/23 paragraph 6.6 it is recognized that the issue of modelling human behaviour in an emergency represents a highly complicated problem. This can only be successfully dealt with by the assistance of sufficient, well-trained crew with good communicating skills and closely integrated into the evacuation plan. It is also essential that such crew have early and effective communication regarding the situation from the bridge or control centre to ensure their action does not exacerbate bottlenecks or interfere with emergency operations.

Proposal

4 The proposed amendments contained in MSC 92/6/2 to SOLAS and the FSS Code should include clear requirements for the availability and action of properly trained crew to assist passengers in any evacuation and the assessments of the demographics and mobility of passengers to be substantially revised.

Action requested of the Committee

5 The Committee is invited to consider the above and in particular paragraph 4 and take action as appropriate