

Report of SSE 6

Sub-committee on Ship Systems and Equipment

4th – 8th March 2019

International Maritime Organization (IMO), London headquarters

ITF delegation

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The Sub-committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE) undertakes technical and operational matters related to ships' systems and equipment also of vessels, crafts and mobile units, such as life-saving equipment, appliances and arrangements, fire detection and fire extinguishing systems, onboard lifting appliances and anchor handling winches. The Sub-committee ensures systems and equipment aboard enhance safety of lives and ship, security of cargo and prevention of marine environment.

The Sub-committee at this session considered the following agendas:

- Goal-based standards safety-level approach for life-saving appliances;
- Draft interim guidelines Polar life-saving appliances;
- Ventilation requirements for survival craft;
- Draft interim guidelines on fire safety on ro-ro ships;
- Revising the guidelines for the approval of fixed dry powder systems; and
- Safe lifting and winching operations.

Three Working Groups (WG) and one Drafting Group (DG) were established at this session. Outcome of each Group, approved by plenary, are elaborated.

Working Group on Life-Saving Appliances

The importance of life-saving appliances is paramount priority in safety of life at sea.

The Sub-committee recognised the needs for precise performance criteria under clear goals. The existing guideline (MSC.1/Circ.1212) was planned to include a new appendix to underscore procedures during and after the situation when the life-saving appliances are being used including drills.



In addition, the Group continued developing interim guidelines on this matter for ships operating in polar waters. The guidelines is expected to foster implementation of Polar Code.

The International Life Saving Appliances Code (LSA Code) provides requirements for life saving appliances required by SOLAS Chapter III. The Group reviewed the Code to ensure a habitable environment of such appliances, in particular ventilation requirements of totally enclosed lifeboats and of survival craft (draft amendments to the *recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances* (Resolution MSC.81(70))).

Outcome of the Group

1. The Group finalised a new appendix to be included in the *Guidelines on alternative design and arrangements* for SOLAS chapters II-1 *Construction – Structure, subdivision and stability, machinery and electrical installations* and III *Life-Saving Appliances and Arrangements*.
2. The guidelines contains specifications of the equipment and requirements for lifeboats and rescue boats on ships proceeding to polar region.

Further work

1. A correspondence group was established to consider or undertake:
 - the draft amendments to the LSA Code and resolution MSC.81(70);
 - the microclimate in partially enclosed lifeboats and life-raft; and
 - the possible benefits of air quality monitoring for all survival crafts.

Working Group on Fire Protection

Fire incidents and accidents of ro-ro ships and ro-ro passenger ships have been a great deal of threat to the safety at sea. It was considered as one of urgent matters for this Sub-committee to develop appropriate measures. The Group, at this session, continued developing the draft guidelines for *minimizing the incidence and consequences of fires on ro-ro spaces and special category spaces of new and existing ro-ro passenger ships* planning to complete in 2020.

Outcome of the Group

1. The draft guidelines provide recommendations on;
 - Prevention and ignition;
 - Detection and decision;
 - Extinguishment;
 - Containment; and
 - Integrity of life-saving appliances and evacuation.
2. IMO casually reports that covers fire cases on ro-ro spaces and special category spaces will be considered as well as the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) FIRESAFE II study.

Further work

1. The Sub-Committee on Human Element Training and Watchkeeping (HTW) will consider a need for amending sections related to training and drills for seafarers.



Working Group on Onboard Lifting Appliances and Anchor Handling Winches

Onboard operations involving lifting appliances and anchor handling winches are likely to result extreme and fatal accidents. Therefore, the Sub-Committee had decided to develop mandatory SOLAS regulations II-1/3-13 to enhance the safety of such onboard operations.

Outcome of the Group

1. The draft SOLAS regulation requires the application, design and construction, operation, inspection, testing and maintenance of onboard lifting appliances and anchor handling winches.

Further work

1. A correspondence group will complete drafting guidelines for the safety of onboard lifting appliances and anchor handling winches.

*Aforementioned IMO documents can be provided if requested.