

**ARMADA DE CHILE
DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DEL TERRITORIO MARÍTIMO Y DE M.M.
DEPARTAMENTO DE ASUNTOS INTERNACIONALES**

**Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (9th session)
4 to 8 April 2005**

Opening address by the Secretary-General

Application of MARPOL to FPSOs and FSUs - draft guidelines agreed

The Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases agreed draft Guidelines for the application of the revised MARPOL Annex I requirements to Floating Production Storage and Offloading Facilities (FPSOs) and Floating Storage Units (FSUs) when it met for its 9th session in April 2005. The draft guidelines will be submitted to the 53rd session of the Marine Environment protection Committee (MEPC) in July 2005 for adoption. The revised MARPOL Annex I Regulations for the prevention of pollution by oil was adopted in October 2004 and is expected to enter into force for ships on 1 January 2007.

Evaluation of safety and pollution hazards of chemicals

Sixteen cleaning additives were approved for inclusion in the next publication of the MEPC circular which provides lists of noxious liquid substances (NLS) with associated categories and minimum carriage requirements which have been established through Tripartite Agreements and registered with the IMO Secretariat (MEPC.2/Circ. series).

The Sub-Committee also agreed draft revised Guidelines for the completion of the BLG Product Data Reporting Form and resolved the practical problems related to the relevant certificates including the problems associated with determining equivalency with respect to gas carriers that may arise in connection with the implementation of the revised MARPOL Annex II, which was adopted in October 2004 and is expected to enter into force on 1 January 2007.

Revision of fire protection requirements of the IBC, IGC, BCH and GC Codes

The Sub-Committee agreed proposed draft amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code), the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code), the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code) and the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (GC Code) aimed at ensuring consistency between the Codes and the revised SOLAS chapter II-2. The Sub-Committee also agreed the addition of Dimethyl Ether and Carbon Dioxide to chapter 19 of the IGC Code and chapter XIX of the GC Code, for approval by the MSC.

Sewage regulations - amendments to standards

MARPOL Annex IV Prevention of pollution by sewage from ships entered into force on 27 September 2003. A revised Annex was adopted on 1 April 2004, with an entry into force date of 1 August 2005.

The Sub-Committee established a correspondence group to review resolution MEPC.2(VI) Recommendation on international effluent standards and guidelines for performance tests for sewage treatment plants. The revision is expected to focus on a number of areas, including the need to reflect current trends for the protection of the marine environment and developments in the design and effectiveness of commercially available sewage treatment plants with a view to avoiding the proliferation of differing standards worldwide. The review will aim to identify and offer solutions for any problems related to the implementation of the resolution and will take into account, as necessary, any relevant standards or guidelines developed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The correspondence group will also develop draft standards for the establishment of the rate of discharge for sewage that has been stored in holding tanks on board ships.

The Sub-Committee also tasked the correspondence group with developing a recommendation regarding the discharge in a practical, efficient and environmentally-friendly manner, at a distance of more than 12 nautical miles from the nearest land, of untreated animal effluent, not stored in holding tanks, from livestock carriers.

Review of the OSV Guidelines

The Sub-Committee finalised its work on the review of the Guidelines for the transport and handling of limited amounts of hazardous and noxious liquid substances in bulk on offshore support vessels (resolution A.673(16)) and the Guidelines for the design and construction of offshore supply vessels (OSV) (resolution A.469(XII)) and forwarded its recommendations to the Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety (SLF), which is co-ordinating work on the revision of the guidelines.

Guidelines for implementation of the 2004 Ballast Water Management Convention
Draft guidelines aiming at ensuring uniform implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention) were finalized by the Sub-Committee.

The following guidelines were finalized with a view to their adoption by MEPC 53: draft Guidelines for ballast water management equivalent compliance; draft Guidelines for ballast water management and the development of ballast water management plans and draft Guidelines for ballast water exchange. The following guidelines were also finalized for review by the Flag State Implementation (FSI) and Ship Design and Equipment (DE) Sub-Committees before final adoption: draft Guidelines for sediment reception facilities; draft Guidelines for ballast water reception facilities and draft Guidelines on design and construction to facilitate sediment control on ships.

Clarification of the definition of fuel oil in MARPOL Annex I

The Sub-Committee agreed to a Unified Interpretation to regulation 13H(2) of the current MARPOL Annex I and the text of proposed amendments to regulation 21.2.2 of the revised MARPOL Annex I, which clarify the definition of fuel oil. The intention is to fill the perceived gap in the definition of Heavy Grade Oil (HGO) that presently would allow for HGOs other than crude oil, fuel oil, or bitumen, tar and their emulsions, to be carried on board single hulled ships.

The proposed Unified Interpretation and draft amendments will be submitted to MEPC 53 in July 2005 for consideration.

Shipboard occupational health

Guidelines on the basic elements for a shipboard occupational health and safety programme were finalized for submission to the Joint MSC/MEPC Working Group on the Human Element, which meets during MEPC in July 2005, for consideration.

The voluntary guidelines describe the basic elements of a shipboard occupational health and safety programme, applicable to all vessel types, which may be used by company managers, health and safety personnel or consultants who are implementing, improving or auditing the effectiveness of such a programme.