

Meeting: International Maritime Organization, Sub-committee on dangerous goods, solid cargoes and containers (DSC 12)

Date: Monday 17 to Friday 21 September, 2007

Venue: Central Hall Westminster, London

Participant from NMRI:

Dr. Susumu OTA (Right in photo)
Senior Research Engineer,
Navigation and System Engineering
Department

Mr. Taeseong Cheong (Left in photo)
Technical Officer,
Maritime Safety Division, IMO



MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Ota, in collaboration with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, coordinated an inter-sessional correspondence group (CG) on "Amendments to the Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes (BC Code) and Mandatory Application of the Code" and submitted the reports of the CG to this session. The reports contained a draft amendment to SOLAS Convention for making the Code mandatory, and a draft revised BC Code including individual schedules for solid bulk cargoes. At this session, he explained the results of the CG at the plenary, and attended a working group (WG) on the BC Code as long as time permitted. He contributed to the preparation of the draft amendments to the Convention and the draft revised Code.

He also coordinated a CG on "Application of Requirements for Dangerous Goods in Packaged Form" and submitted the report of the CG containing draft amendments to SOLAS Convention and International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft 2000 (2000 HSC Code) to this session. This agenda item was initiated based on the results of his investigation on the carriage of dangerous goods.

At this session, he explained the results of the CG at the plenary and chaired a WG on this agenda item. He contributed to the preparation of the draft amendments to the Convention and 2000 HSC Code, as well as a draft MSC Circular containing standard formats for "Document of Compliance" with the special requirements for ships carrying dangerous goods.

MAJOR OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

The Sub-Committee approved draft amendment 34-08 to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code and instructed the Editorial and Technical Group to finalize the draft amendment, which contains new provisions for "excepted quantities" of dangerous goods. The amendment is scheduled to take effect on the first of January 2010.

The Sub-Committee prepared the draft amendment to SOLAS Convention for making the BC Code mandatory. The Sub-Committee further prepared the draft revised BC Code, which will be called International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code, pending the decision on the individual schedules for DIRECT REDUCES IRONS, non-dangerous SULPHUR, COAL & BROWN COAL BRIQUETTES and requirements for ships fitted with gravity type self-unloader systems. The revised Code is scheduled to take effect on the first of January 2009 on a voluntary basis, and to be mandated on the first of January 2011.

The Sub-Committee finalized the agenda item "application of requirements for dangerous goods in packaged form". The draft amendments to SOLAS Convention and 2000 HSC Code and the draft MSC circular, prepared under this agenda item, will be sent to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and the Fire Protection Sub-Committee. The DSC Sub-Committee will invite the MSC to proceed for the timely entry into force of these amendments in synchronization with amendment 34-08 to the IMDG Code.

The Sub-Committee considered "Guidance on Providing Safe Working Conditions for Securing of Containers", which will be incorporated in the Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing (CSS Code), and prepared a draft guidance for further consideration. The Sub-Committee agreed draft Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of the Cargo Securing Manual, however decided to postpone the submission of the draft guidelines to the MSC until the work on the Guidance on Providing Safe Working Conditions for Securing of Containers is finalized, in order to have these Guidelines and Guidance approved at the same session.

THE NEXT SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

The thirteenth session of the Sub-Committee (DSC 13) is tentatively scheduled to be held from 22 through 26 of September 2008 at IMO Headquarters, London.