

Meeting: International Maritime Organization (IMO), Sub-Committee on Fire Protection, 51st session (FP 51)

Date: Monday 5 to Friday 9 February, 2007

Venue: Royal Horticultural Halls and Conference Centre, London

Participant from NMRI:

Mr. Koichi Yoshida (Left in photo)
Director, Centre for International Cooperation

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



MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Yoshida chaired the working group for comprehensive review of IMO Fire Test procedures Code (FTP Code). The WG reviewed the report of the correspondence group (CG) on this issue established at FP50. Japan took the leadership of the CG. The WG made a lot of fundamental agreement which the Sub-Committee also agreed (See Major Outcome below). Mr. Yoshida informed the activities of ISO/Technical Committee 92 (Fire safety) and its Sub-Committee 1 (Fire initiation and growth), where he is chairing, on various standardization work which are closely related to IMO FTP Code. The group considered through all the draft parts of new FTP Code. Mr. Yoshida made a short summary report to the plenary of FP 51 of the outcome of the WG, and was asked to provide a full text of revised draft new FTP Code after this meeting, as soon as possible, so that the members can further consider the draft.

Dr. Ota was in charge of the agenda items 5 and 12, i.e., "recommendation on evacuation analysis for new and existing passenger ships" and "application of requirements for dangerous goods in SOLAS and the 2000 HSC Code",

respectively. Item 12 was initiated by Japan, recognizing that the NMRI, during investigation on requirements for packaged dangerous goods, found possible errors in the application of such requirements. Dr. Ota further assisted the discussion on safety measures for cargo areas in tankers under item 10, i.e., "analysis of fire casualty records".

Under item 5, Dr. Ota coordinated the CG established at the last session and reported the results of the work at this session (FP 51/5 & FP 51/5/1). He also informed the Sub-Committee of the results of evacuation analysis conducted by the NMRI. He further chaired the working group and completed the draft revised guidelines for evacuation analysis for new and existing passenger ships.

Under item 12, Dr. Ota explained about the documents submitted by Japan to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 80/23/3 and MSC 81/23/5) and pointed out that DSC Sub-Committee established a CG on this issue. He further explained about possible course of actions on this item.

Under item 10, Dr. Ota explained about the results of preliminary FSA study on application of requirement for Inert Gas Systems on tankers of less than 20,000 DWT conducted by the NMRI.

MAJOR OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

Under item 3 (Review of Fire safety Systems Code: FSS Code), the Sub-Committee continues to consider the revision of FSS Code, and matters related to the fire safety of open area, including cabin balcony of passenger ships. Following matter were finalised at this session:

- Guidelines for fixed water-based fire extinguishing systems and fire detection systems for cabin balconies;
- Amendment to SOLAS regulation II-1/10.4.1.5 for retro-fitting of two action release system of fixed CO₂ fire extinguishing systems.

On the other hand, the Sub-Committee agreed to further consider the guidelines for fixed high-expansion foam fire extinguishing systems for machinery spaces. It was pointed out that existing guidelines for fixed fire-extinguishing systems for vehicle decks and ro-ro spaces should be re-considered.

Under item 4 (Review of Fire Test Procedures Code: FTP Code), the Sub-Committee agreed to use the most recent versions of ISO standards (ISO 1182, ISO 5659-2, ISO 834-1, ISO 5658-2, ISO 5660-1) for the purpose of the FTP Code. In this regard, the Sub-Committee agreed to:

- use plate-thermometer for controlling the fire resistant test furnace (FTP Code Part 3),
- use propane fuelled impinging pilot flame for surface flammability test (FTP Code Part 5).
- use FTIR for gas measurement during the smoke test (FTP Code Part 2).

The Sub-Committee found the necessity of establishing a heat flux meter calibration at fire test laboratories in

relation to FTP Code Parts 2, 3, 5 and 10, and decided to ask ISO/TC 92/SC 1 (see above) to develop a standard for such calibration scheme. The CG was re-established under the coordinator of Mr. Hiraoka, RIME, Japan, to consider further the draft new FTP Code. The Sub-Committee is expecting to finalize this item at its next session (FP 52 in January 2008).

Under item 5 (Evacuation analysis), the Sub-Committee agreed draft revised guidelines for evacuation analyses for new and existing passenger ships. The guidelines will be approved at MSC 83 and be used for design of passenger ships as voluntary basis.

Under item 9 (IACS Unified Interpretation (UI)), the Sub-Committee did not agree the first part of IACS UI FTP 3 for test and approval of large fire doors, because engineering analysis should be presented to allow such scheme, however, agreed to the second part (This consideration was made at the WG for FTP Code). The Sub-Committee considered IACS UI SC 178 for emergency fire pump arrangement, but could not reach any conclusion, and agreed further consideration would be necessary from stability point of view for the navigation and loadline condition to which the sanction height of the fire pump should be determined.

Under item 10 (Analysis on casualty record), the Sub-Committee agreed to recommend the MSC to add new agenda item on "Measures to prevent explosions on oil and chemical tankers transporting low-flash point cargoes" for FP, DE and BLG Sub-Committees.

Under item 12 (Application of requirements for dangerous goods), the Sub-Committee agreed to discuss this issue at the next session, extending the target year of this agenda, after the consideration by DSC Sub-Committee.

Under item 13 (Number and position of portable fire extinguishers), the Sub-Committee made a draft unified interpretation for the number and position of portable fire extinguisher placed in accommodation spaces of ships, base on the submission by Japan, China and the Unites States, and agreed to further consider this draft at the next session.

THE NEXT SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

The fifty second session of the Sub-Committee (FP 52) is tentatively scheduled from 14 to 18 of January 2008 in London.