

MEETING: International Maritime Organization, Sub-committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases, 13th session (BLG 13)

OUTLINE OF THE MEETING

- The BLG Sub-Committee developed some sets of draft guidelines for uniform implementation of Annex VI to MARPOL Convention.
- The BLG Sub-Committee agreed to develop six sets of draft guidelines for uniform implementation of 2004 BMW Convention and prepared work in near future.
- The BLG Sub-Committee established a correspondence group on "safety requirements for natural gas hydrate pellet carriers" under the co-ordination of Dr. Ota.

DATE: Monday 2 to Friday 6 March, 2009

VENUE: IMO Headquarters, London, UK

PARTICIPANTS FROM NMRI

From the left in photo:

Dr. Susumu OTA: Senior Research Engineer,
Navigation and System Engineering Department

Mr. Eiichi MURAOKA: Chief Researcher,
Energy and Environment Assessment Department

Dr. Ryuji KOJIMA: Chief Researcher,
Energy and Environment Assessment Department

Dr. Takeyuki KISHI: Chief Researcher,
Energy and Environment Assessment Department



MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Ota contributed to the development of Japanese proposals on the agenda item "safety requirements for natural gas hydrate pellet (NGHP) carriers" and, in the meeting, explained all the proposals. He assisted the presentation on the conceptual design of a NGHP carrier held on Tuesday lunch time. He undertook the coordinator of the correspondence group on this issue. Furthermore, he participated in the drafting group on gas-fuelled ships and contributed to the development of the draft interim guidelines on safety for natural gas-fuelled engine installations in ships.

Mr. Muraoka and Dr. Kishi participated in the working group for the review of the related non-mandatory documents based on a result of the review of MARPOL Annex VI and NOx Technical Code. They explained Japan's way of thinking in response to questions on the SCR certification scheme proposed by Japan, and contributed to developing mutual understanding for certification of SCR systems

between members. In addition, Mr. Muraoka made efforts of drafting the guideline of the reception facilities under the MARPOL Annex VI cooperated with Marshall Islands.

Dr. Kojima participated in the working group for developing guidelines for the Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention and was in charge of the discussion for minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species through bio-fouling. He contributed to develop the action plan for uniform implementation of the BWM Convention. From view point of framework for determining when a basic approval granted to one BWM system may be applied to another system that use the same active substance or preparation, he also contributed to develop the interpretation of the basic principles for the guidance in the case of Ultra Violet system.

MAJOR OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

(1) Evaluation of safety and pollution hazards of chemicals and preparation of consequential amendments

With the report of the 14th ESPH-WG meeting, the Sub-Committee considered on additional new products in the IBC Code and adding the new tank cleaning additives in the relevant guidelines. As a result, the Sub-Committee agreed to accept the addition of the new products and the new tank cleaning additives including three kinds of tank cleaning additives as proposed by Japan.

(2) Application of the requirements for the carriage of bio-fuels and bio-fuel blends

The Sub-Committee agreed to extend the terms of validity of the interim guidelines on the carriage of

bio-fuel blends for a further 24 months from the originally scheduled date of expiry, i.e., 1st of July 2009. The Sub-Committee further agreed that when carrying bio-fuel blends under the interim guidelines any residues and tank washings should be pumped ashore unless the ODME (oil discharge monitoring equipment) is certified.

Furthermore, the Sub-Committee agreed the necessity of developing the guidance in respect of Procedure and Arrangements Manual, Oil Record Book, Cargo Record Books, name of the final product at unloading and possible wash requirements and residue discharge after unloading on blending on board, and the further consideration in ESPH working group.

(3) Development of guidelines and other documents for uniform implementation of the 2004 BWM Convention

The IMO secretariat reported the current status of ratification for the BWM Convention that the ratifier was 18 (six countries had ratified since BLG 12) and a total shipping tonnage of commercial ship became 15.36 %. The Sub-Committee agreed to establish a CG on the BWM Convention. The Sub-Committee further agreed to develop the guidance documents regarding application of Basic Approval granted to one applicant to another applicant using the same Active Substance or preparation, and the Ballast water sampling and analysis protocols with a view to finalizing these documents at BLG 14 through the CG. Furthermore, the Sub-Committee agreed to merge the guidance documents on Type Approval of BWM systems and others as well as mentioned above, and to approve the action plan for uniform implementation of the BWM Convention to complete all guideline by October, 2010. The Sub-Committee agreed to establish a single WG on bio-fouling issues and the BWM Convention.

(4) Development of provisions for gas-fuelled ships

The Sub-Committee finalized the draft interim guidelines on safety for natural gas-fuelled engine installations in ships. The Sub-Committee further developed the work plan for the International Code of Safety for Gas-fuelled Ships (IGF Code) and established a correspondence group.

(5) Development of international measures for minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species through bio-fouling of ships

The CG report was considered at plenary. The Sub-Committee agreed to establish a single WG to deal with this issue and the BWM Convention at BLG 14.

(6) Review of the Recommendation for material safety data sheets for MARPOL Annex I cargoes and marine fuel oils

New SOLAS regulation VI/5-1, which will be adopted by MSC 86, requires material safety data sheets (MSDSs) for oil or oil fuel, as defined in MARPOL Annex I. The Sub-Committee agreed the revised recommendation for MSDS, which revokes the existing recommendation, i.e., MSC.150(77).

(7) Revision of the IGC Code

Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators Limited (SIGTTO) orally reported the progress of comprehensive review of the IGC Code. The proposal on gas detection (BLG 13/11) was sent to the industry group coordinated by SIGTTO for consideration.

(8) Safety requirements for natural gas hydrate pellet carriers

The Sub-Committee considered the documents by Japan (BLG 13/12, BLG 13/12/1, BLG 13/12/2 and BLG 13/INF.2) and established a Correspondence Group under the coordination of Dr. Ota.

(9) Review of relevant non-mandatory instruments as a consequence of the amended MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code

The Sub-Committee finalized several draft guidelines and MEPC Circulars and sent them to MEPC 59 for adoption. These guidelines are the survey guidelines under HSSC, the guidelines for PSC control for the Annex VI, the guidelines for VOC management plan, a guideline for sampling for fuel oil, a circular regarding DEFINITIONS FOR THE COST, Power and Δ NO_x for existing engine's approval procedure, a circular regarding certification of Tier I engines' certification after the entry into force of revised NO_x Technical Code. Among these guidelines and circulars, the Sub-Committee agreed to forward the survey guidelines under HSSC, the guidelines for PSC control for the Annex VI to FSI 17 for review.

In addition, guidelines for Exhaust Gas Cleaning System for SO_x reduction and reception facilities in MARPOL Annex VI were not finalized and referred to MEPC 59 for further consideration. Also a guideline for other primary SO_x emission control measures was discussed but not reached any consensus. Accordingly the Sub-Committee agreed to consider this issue after the next meeting.

Furthermore, the Sub-Committee considered of the guideline for SCR system certification for implementation of NO_x Tier III regulation, which will be implemented in 2016. The Sub-Committee agreed that SCR system certification guidelines should be universal, available regardless of Tier I, Tier II,

or Tier III, and identified to areas to be considered when developing guidelines such as exhaust gas correction (dry/wet), ash, reducing agent, capacity of SCR system, injector positioning, and ammonia slip, etc., and agreed to discuss developing guidelines at BLG 14 and MEPC 59.

(10) Amendments to MARPOL Annex I on the use and carriage of heavy grade oil on ships in the Antarctic area

The Sub-Committee agreed to add a new provision to MARPOL Annex I. The new provision prohibits the use or carriage of heavy oils having a density at 15°C higher than 900 kg/m³ or kinematic viscosity at 50°C higher than 180 mm²/sec other than lubricating oil etc. in the Antarctic area.

(11) Device to prevent passage of flame into cargo tanks

The Sub-Committee agreed the amendments to the revised standards for the design, testing and locating of devices to prevent the passage of flame into cargo tanks in tankers (MSC/Circ.677 & MSC/Circ.1009) regarding the Maximum Experimental Safe Gap (MESG). By the revised standards, devices for chemical tankers, constructed on or after 1 January 2013 and no later than the first scheduled dry-docking after the date for existing ships, certified for the carriage of products of Group II B and Group II C should be tested with Ethylene (Group II B) and Hydrogen (Group II C), respectively, based on the apparatus group of the IBC Code, Chapter 17.

THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

The next session of the Sub-Committee (BLG 14) will be held from 8 to 12 February, 2010 at IMO Headquarters. The working and drafting groups on the following agenda item are scheduled to be established:

- Evaluation of safety and pollution hazards of chemicals and preparation of consequential amendments
- Development of provisions for gas-fuelled ships
- Development of guidelines and other documents for uniform implementation of the 2004 BWM Convention and international measures for minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species through bio-fouling of ships
- Amendments to MARPOL Annex I on the use and carriage of heavy grade oil on ships in the Antarctic area
- Safety requirements for natural gas hydrate pellet carriers