

Meeting: International Maritime Organization (IMO), Sub-committee on Fire Protection, 50th session (FP 50)
Date: Monday 9 to Friday 13 January, 2006, Venue: IMO Headquarters, London

Participant from NMRI :
Mr. Koichi YOSHIDA (right in photo)
Principal Research Coordinator
Dr. Susumu OTA (left in photo)
Leader of Cargo Transportation and
Fire Safety Research Group



MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Yoshida and Japanese team prepared a text of draft revised Fire Test Procedures Code (FTP Code) and related proposal of revision to the fire test method, which were submitted to FP 50 (FP 50/10/1, FP 50/10/1/Add.1, FP 50/10/2, FP 50/10/3, FP 50/10/4 and FP 50/INF.5). The Sub-Committee discussed this issue based on these document and other papers, and decided to establish a correspondence group on revision of the FTP Code, which Japan undertook the coordinator.
Mr. Yoshida also contributed to finalize the technical standards for sprinkler systems, water-based and equivalent gas fire-extinguishing systems for machinery spaces, and to progress the standards for high-expansion foam fire-extinguishing systems for machinery spaces.
Mr. Yoshida reported the NMRI/JSTRA study results on compatibility of immersion suits and lifeboats, which will be submitted as a formal paper and considered at the next session.

Dr. Ota, at the last session of the Sub-Committee, undertook the co-ordinator of the correspondence group on evacuation analysis for new and existing passenger ships and, at this session, contributed to prepare the draft amendments to the Interim Guidelines for Evacuation Analyses for New and Existing Passenger Ships (MSC/Circ.1033) as the chairman of the drafting group. Then, he undertook the co-ordinator of the correspondence group on evacuation analysis for passenger ships again at this session to prepare the totally revised text of the guidelines.

Dr. Ota, at 48th session of the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment (DE 48), undertook the co-ordinator of the correspondence group on Life-Saving Appliances together with a representative of the United States and submitted the report to this meeting (FP 50), which were the basis of the consideration on life-saving appliances at FP 50.

MAJOR OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

Passenger Ship safety

Based on the fire-scenario, the Sub-Committee developed new SOLAS regulation II-2/22 for safety centre, II-2/21 for Casualty threshold, safe return to port and safe area and other related amendments to regulations in SOLAS/II-2. The Sub-Committee did not agree to expand fire resistance time of divisions forming main vertical zones. The Sub-Committee agreed the necessity of development of criteria for harmonized application of fire risk analysis.

Fire Safety Systems Code (FSS Code)

The Sub-Committee finalised the revision of technical standards for sprinkler systems, water-based and equivalent gas fire-extinguishing systems for machinery spaces and maintenance and inspection standard for CO₂ fire-extinguishing systems. The Sub-Committee agreed to continue the development of high-expansion foam and aerosol fire-extinguishing systems for machinery spaces and established a correspondence group for this purpose

Evacuation analysis

Based on the report of the correspondence group (FP 50/5/1) and other documents, draft amendments to the Interim Guidelines for Evacuation Analyses for New and Existing Passenger Ships (MSC/Circ.1033) were prepared by the drafting group. The Sub-Committee, being unable to finalize the revision of the guidelines, established a correspondence group to prepare revised draft guidelines.

Fire Test Procedures Code (FTP Code)

The FTP code came into force in 1998. Since then, many unified interpretations were approved, and some amendments were adopted. The ISO standards referred to in the FTP Code have been revised, and new technologies on fire test and fire safety have been developed, during these years. Under these circumstances, Japan proposed, to MSC 80 (May 2005) to start review work on the FTP Code. MSC 80 unanimously agreed with this proposal and instruct the FP Sub-Committee to start the job from 50th session with a target completion in 2008. Japan prepared proposal of the draft new FTP Code (Please see the major contribution above for the outcome of FP 50).

Life-saving appliances

Based on the reports of the correspondence group (FP 50/13/2, FP 50/15/1 & FP 50/13/3) and other submission papers, various draft amendments to chapter III of the SOLAS Convention, the LSA Code, Revised recommendation on testing of life-saving appliances (MSC.81(70)) and other guidelines were approved. Furthermore, the draft Guidelines for the Development of Operation and Maintenance Manuals for Lifeboats were developed based on the proposals of Japan (DE 47/5/3 & DE 48/5/1).

Next meeting

The next session (FP 51) will meet on 5 to 9 February 2007 in London UK. The meeting venue will be announced later, since IMO building will be repaired in the latter half of 2006 and early half of 2007.