



# IMO NCSR 7 Meeting Summary

January 15 - 24, 2020

The Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) of the International Maritime Organization met for its 7<sup>th</sup> session in London during 15-24 January 2020.

Liberia was represented throughout NCSR 7 in the plenary session and in the Working Groups on Communications and Navigation.

## INDIAN REGIONAL NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM (IRNSS)"

The Sub-Committee agreed to recognise the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) as a component of the Worldwide radionavigation system. An SN Circular was drafted to that effect and will be forwarded to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) for approval.

Shipborne satellite navigation system receiver equipment could continue. However, this is only to be done within the context of satellite navigation receiver equipment only.

Submissions were invited from interested parties to progress the work intersessionally for finalization at NCSR 8.

## REVISION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICES (RESOLUTION A.857(20))

In finalizing the revision of the guidelines for vessel traffic services, the Sub-Committee considered whether it was possible to establish a VTS beyond the territorial seas of the coastal state. Whilst it was agreed that this could be so, it is on the understanding that this is to provide information and advice on a voluntary participation basis only.

The Sub-Committee approved the draft Assembly resolution on Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services, for subsequent approval by MSC and adoption by the Assembly.

Similarly, the Sub-Committee approved, with a view to adoption by MSC, draft amendments to existing traffic separation schemes and associated routeing measures, relating to the:

- consolidated traffic separation schemes and associated routeing measures off the coast of Norway,
- traffic separation scheme in "Slupska Bank", Poland
- traffic separation scheme "Off Ushant",

Additionally, the Sub-Committee approved amendments to the existing two-way route in the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait.

## JAPANESE REGIONAL NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM QUASI-ZENITH SATELLITE SYSTEM (QZSS)

### Performance standards for shipborne QZSS receiver equipment

In relation to the application by Japan for recognition of the Japanese regional navigation satellite system Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) in the maritime field, the Sub-Committee considered the information provided to date. Consequently, Japan was invited to provide further information and more detailed data to a future session of the Sub-Committee, including, inter alia, the available coverage, both regionally and locally, the degree of accuracy, and signal availability.

The Sub-Committee approved a draft MSC resolution on Performance standards for shipborne QZSS receiver equipment, for adoption by MSC.

### Development of performance standards for shipborne equipment using radio signals for the provision of information and data for navigation

In a broader context, the Sub-Committee agreed that the work on the development of performance standards for

The routing measures agreed above are expected to be implemented six months after their adoption by MSC.

The Sub-Committee also agreed that the existing adopted measures contained in circulars COLREG.2/Circ.58, COLREG.2/Circ.61 and COLREG.2/Circ.62 should be revoked, due to their complete replacement by new measures to be adopted.

#### UPDATING OF THE GMDSS MASTER PLAN AND GUIDELINES ON MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI)

The Sub-Committee agreed to the draft revision of MSC.1/Circ.1364/Rev.1 on International SafetyNET Services Manual which will be forwarded to MSC for approval.

Similarly, the Sub-Committee also agreed to the draft MSC circular on the IMO Enhanced Group Call Coordinating Panel; which will also be forwarded to MSC for approval.

#### CONSIDERATION OF DESCRIPTIONS OF MARITIME SERVICES IN THE CONTEXT OF E-NAVIGATION

##### Guidance for further development of Maritime Services descriptions (MSC.1/Circ.1610)

The Sub-Committee agreed that in order to progress the work on the further development of the descriptions of Maritime Services intersessionally, MSC will be invited to establish an ISWG with input from the Facilitation Committee. Member States are encouraged to submit proposals on the Terms of Reference to NCSR 8.

Furthermore, the Sub-Committee agreed that the Joint Working Group (JWG) should maintain its review of Maritime Service 10 (Maritime Assistance Service) and Maritime Service 16 (Search and Rescue Service) with a view to reporting any recommendations to future sessions of the Sub-Committee.

##### E-navigation strategy implementation plan update

Although there is no dedicated output enabling the consideration of the implementation plan, interested parties were invited to progress the work to update the *E-navigation Strategy implementation plan – Update 1* (MSC.1/Circ.1595) intersessionally and present a draft to a future session of the Sub-Committee

#### REVISION OF THE GUIDELINES ON PLACES OF REFUGE FOR SHIPS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE (RESOLUTION A.949(23))

Work continues on the revision of the Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance (resolution A.949(23)) and to that end a correspondence group was established to further this work intersessionally.

#### MSI PORTRAYAL GUIDANCE

Noting that there have been issues relating to the MSI portrayal guidance in SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.2, the Sub-Committee agreed that the most expedite way to resolve this issue was to issue a corrigendum to that document. Consequently, the draft corrigendum (SN.1/Circ.243/Rev.2/Corr.1), will be forwarded to MSC for approval.

#### Communications

#### UPDATING OF THE GMDSS MASTER PLAN AND GUIDELINES ON MARITIME SAFETY INFORMATION (MSI)

The Sub-Committee considered the development of a technical solution for the reception and dissemination of MSI and SAR related information over different recognised mobile satellite services and the monitoring of MSI broadcasts in the new, multi-provider environment.

Following lengthy discussions at this session, the work of developing a technical solution for the reception and dissemination of MSI and SAR related information over different recognised mobile satellite service providers continues and will be reviewed at future sessions of the Sub-Committee.

Furthermore, the Sub-Committee agreed that there was no need for a liaison statement, as proposed, since all relevant parties were already cooperating on this matter.

#### REVISION OF SOLAS CHAPTERS III AND IV

The Sub-Committee agreed, in principle, to draft amendments to SOLAS chapters III and IV covering the following areas:

- Chapter III - Life-saving appliances and arrangements

- Part B: Requirements for ships' life-saving appliances
- Chapter IV -Radiocommunications
  - Part A: General
  - Part B: Undertakings by contracting governments
  - Part C: Ship requirements
- Form of safety certificate for passenger ships
- Record of equipment for passenger ship safety (Form P)
- Record of equipment for the cargo ship safety equipment certificate (Form E)
- Form of safety radio certificate for cargo ships
- Record of equipment for cargo ship safety radio (Form R)
- Form of safety certificate for cargo ships
- Record of equipment for cargo ship safety (Form C)
- Form of safety certificate for nuclear passenger ships
- Record of equipment for passenger ship safety certificate (Form P)
- Form of safety certificate for nuclear cargo ships
- Record of equipment for the nuclear cargo ship safety certificate (Form C)

Additionally, consequential amendments to the following existing instruments were identified:

- A.702(17) on *Radio maintenance guidelines for the GMDSS related to sea areas A3 and A4*
- MSC/Circ.1039 on *Guidelines for shore-based maintenance of satellite EPIRBs*
- MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.1 on *Guidelines on annual testing of 406 MHz satellite EPIRBs*
- COMSAR/Circ.32
- A.707(17) on *Charges for distress, urgency and safety messages through the Inmarsat system*
- *Work plan for the review of existing instruments related to the amendments to SOLAS chapters III and IV*

## RESPONSE TO MATTERS RELATED TO THE RADIOCOMMUNICATION ITU-R STUDY GROUP AND ITU WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE

*Electromagnetic interference (EMI) effects of light-emitting diode (LED) lighting systems*

The Sub-Committee considered the potential impact of Electromagnetic interference (EMI) effects of, inter alia, light-emitting diode (LED) lighting systems on ship safety and

Invite interested parties to submit proposals to the next session of the IMO/ITU Experts Group.

*Revision of recommendation ITU-R M.585-7 on assignment and use of identities in the maritime mobile service.*

The Sub-Committee approved a liaison statement relating to the revision of recommendation ITU-R M.585-7 on *Assignment and use of identities in the maritime mobile service*, for AMRD Group B using AIS technology which will be forwarded to ITU-R WP 5B.

*Protection of L-band maritime satellite communications*

In considering the position of CEPT ECC with regard to L-Band communications, the Sub-Committee approved a liaison statement on the protection of L-band maritime satellite communications which will be forwarded to CEPT ECC.

*Consequential amendments of resolutions MSC.163(78), MSC.333(90) and MSC/Circ.882 related to the adoption of resolution MSC.471(101)*

The Sub-Committee will forward the draft revised resolutions MSC.163(78) and MSC.333(90) to the next session of the IMO/ITU Expert Group for further consideration.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN GMDSS SATELLITE SERVICES

### Status of the Cospas-Sarsat Programme

The Sub-Committee was pleased to note that the continuing success of the Cospas-Sarsat Programme which could be measured in the fact that 2,185 persons had been rescued over 904 search and rescue missions through the life of the programme.

In light of this, the Sub-Committee encouraged Administrations to enter into agreements between SPOCs and their supporting MCCs, based on the model available on the Cospas-Sarsat website and instruct the ICAO/IMO JWG to develop an appropriate methodology for RCCs to provide feedback on actions taken in a SAR event.

### Guidelines on harmonized aeronautical and maritime search and rescue procedures, including SAR training matters

The Sub-Committee approved the draft COMSAR circular on Interim Guidance for SAR Services Regarding

Implementation of Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT) of Aircraft in Flight.

Furthermore, the Sub-Committee instructed the JWG to consider the results of the GMDSS/GADSS ship-to-aircraft

interoperability trials once available.

## UNIFIED INTERPRETATIONS

### **Use of expired primary batteries to examine and check the operation of two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus**

The Sub-Committee agreed that expired primary batteries, complying with MSC.149(77) may be used, solely, for the examination and checking of the operation of two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus. Resolution A.1120(30) will be updated accordingly in due course.

### **Battery validity dates for survival craft portable two-way VHF radios**

The Sub-Committee agreed that the battery validity dates for survival craft portable two-way radiotelephone apparatus should be clearly defined and marked on the equipment. This would ensure that the underlying requirement could not be exploited to gain a commercial advantage at the expense of safety. Resolution MSC.149(77) will be updated accordingly in due course.

## MODEL TRAINING COURSES

Work continues on the review of model courses 3.13 on *SAR Administration (IAMSAR Manual Volume I)* and 3.15 on *SAR On-scene Coordinator (IAMSAR Manual Volume III)*, with a view to validation at NCSR 8.

The Sub-Committee agreed to invite proposals to NCSR 8 from member States and international organizations relating to the review of model course 3.08 on *Survey of navigational aids and equipment*.

## INTERSESSIONAL WORK

The following correspondence groups, due to report to NCSR 8, were established:

- revision of the Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance (resolution A.949(23));

- safety measures for non-SOLAS ships operating in polar waters.

The next meeting of the Sub-Committee, NCSR 8, is scheduled for: 10-19 February 2021.

For further information please contact:

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## NCSR 7 – Summary of Major Decisions

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### PROVISIONAL LIST OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND CIRCULARS

<b>MSC.xxx(99)</b>	<i>Amendments to the International Code on the Enhanced Programme of Inspections during surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, 2011 (2011 ESP Code)</i>
<b>MSC.1/Circ.xxx</b>	<i>Guidelines on operational information for masters in case of flooding for passenger ships constructed before 1 January 2014.</i>
<b>A.xxx(32)</b>	<i>Guidelines for vessel traffic services</i>
<b>MSC.163(78)/Rev.1</b>	<i>Performance standards for shipborne simplified voyage data recorders (S-VDRs)</i>
<b>MSC.333(90)/Rev.1</b>	<i>Performance standards for shipborne voyage data recorders (VDRs)</i>
<b>MSC.xxx(102)</b>	<i>Performance standards for shipborne MF and MF/HF radio installations capable of voice communication and digital selective calling</i>
<b>MSC.xxx(102)</b>	<i>Performance standards for shipborne Japanese Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS) receiver equipment</i>
<b>MSC.xxx(102)</b>	<i>Special arrangements in respect of charges to ship stations for distress, urgency or safety communications carried over the recognized mobile satellite services in the GMDSS</i>
<b>MSC.1/Circ.1039/Rev.1</b>	<i>Guidelines for shore-based maintenance of satellite EPIRBs</i>
<b>MSC.1/Circ.1040/Rev.2</b>	<i>Revised guidelines on annual testing of 406 MHz satellite EPIRBs</i>
<b>MSC.1/Circ.xxx</b>	<i>On international SafetyNet services manual</i>
<b>MSC.1/Circ.xxx</b>	<i>IMO enhanced group call coordinating panel</i>
<b>COMSAR.1/Circ.32/Rev.1</b>	<i>Harmonization of GMDSS requirements for radio installations on board SOLAS ships</i>
<b>COMSAR.1/Circ.xxx</b>	<i>Interim guidance for search and rescue services regarding implementation of autonomous distress tracking (ADT) of aircraft in flight</i>
<b>SN Circular</b>	<i>Recognition of the Indian regional navigation satellite system (IRNSS) as a component of the world-wide radionavigation system</i>

Note: the above circulars will be submitted to MSC for adoption and so are yet to be numbered.