

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
95th session
Agenda item 21

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Format for electronic exchange and standard reports

Submitted by the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: In the context of the Code for Recognized Organizations, this document discusses the establishment of a harmonized Universal Data Exchange Format (UDEF) for Electronic Exchange and Standard Reports

Strategic direction: 4.0

High-level action: 4.0.2

Planned output: 4.0.2.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related document: MSC 95/INF.13

Introduction

1 MSC 92 and MEPC 65, by resolutions MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65), adopted the Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code). By appropriate amendments to SOLAS, the 1988 Load Lines Protocol and MARPOL Annexes I and II, the RO Code became mandatory on 1 January 2015. Paragraphs 3.9.2 (Communication/cooperation with flag State) and 3.9.3 (Cooperation between ROs) of the RO Code address matters related to the means and scope of communication.

Background

2 The process of data exchange is vital for the marine industry. It must be reliable, cost effective, well protected and harmonized. At this time, there is no internationally agreed understanding relating to data exchange scope and formats.

3 The establishment of a Unified Data Exchange Format (UDEF) would make data from all ROs available and harmonized for further processing. It would also facilitate the concept of "single window" reporting, whereby flag States can have access to complete and reliable data.

4 The use of aggregating server software, based at any/some/all RO's server(s) or at the Organization's server, or specially designed application software installed at the end user's computer may provide Member States with the necessary complete and reliable data in a single report, irrespective of the number of ROs authorized to act on behalf of a particular flag State.

5 For the purpose of electronic exchange of data with end users, the anticipated means of exchange will be by XML files via a web service. The relevant technical issues are discussed in document MSC 95/INF.13, which provides in its annex the latest version of IACS Recommendation No. 75 on the Format for Electronic Exchange and Standard Reports. Recommendation No. 75 addresses the "Unified Data Exchange Format (UDEF)" for electronic exchange of class and statutory data between IACS Member Societies and flag States.

6 Interested Member States are invited to contact IACS with a view to co-sponsoring a submission to MSC 96 seeking a relevant new output to amend, or supplement the RO Code.

Action requested of the Committee

7 The Committee is invited to consider the issues discussed above and, in particular, the invitation contained in paragraph 6, and to take action as appropriate.
