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Agenda item

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Report on IMO MSC 108

# Introduction

This report summarizes items of interest to IALA arising from IMO MSC 108, held from May 15 to 24, 2024, at the IMO Headquarters. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Mayte Medina of the United States, supported by Vice-Chair Capt. Theofilos Mozas of Greece. IALA was represented by Minsu Jeon, Tom Southall, and Axel Hahn.

To this meeting, IALA submitted the following paper to the meeting:

* MSC 108-INF.8 - IALA Workshop on establishing scenarios for the development of MASS (IALA)

# Outcomes of the meeting

**Key points**

* Roadmap revised for the development of a code to regulate autonomous ships (Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships - MASS)
* Revised Guidelines on maritime cyber risk management adopted
* New training requirements on prevention and responding to violence and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual harassment, bullying and sexual assault – amendments to the STCW Code adopted
* Amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention and associated instruments adopted
* Reports from the Sub-Committees – various sets of provisions approved

**MASS**

The Committee advanced its work on developing a voluntary MASS Code to ensure the safe operation and coexistence of autonomous and conventional ships. It approved the report of the third session of the Joint MSC-LEG-FAL Working Group on MASS (MASS-JWG 3) and noted significant progress in drafting the MASS Code. The revised roadmap for the MASS Code development is as follows:

* May 2025: Finalize and adopt the non-mandatory MASS Code.
* First half of 2026: Develop a framework for an experience-building phase (EPB).
* 2028: Commence development of the mandatory MASS Code, based on the non-mandatory Code, and consider amendments to SOLAS (new chapter) for the Code's adoption.
* By July 1, 2030: Adoption of the mandatory Code, for entry into force on January 1, 2032.

The Committee agreed to re-establish the MSC/MASS-Intersessional Working Group, meeting from September 9 to 13, 2024, and the intersessional MASS Correspondence Group to continue its work and report back to MSC 109 (December 2-6, 2024).

**Revision of the Guidelines on maritime cyber risk management**

The Committee approved the revised guidelines on maritime cyber risk management (MSC-FAL.1/Circ.3/Rev.3) and forwarded them to the Facilitation Committee for concurrent approval. The guidelines cover standards and best practices for cyber risk management, including updates on key definitions, background information, application, functional elements of cyber-risk management, and relevant international and industry standards and best practices.

**Amendments to the STCW Code**

The Committee adopted amendments to the STCW Code aimed at preventing and responding to violence and harassment in the maritime sector, including sexual harassment, bullying, and sexual assault. These amendments, initially approved by MSC 107, were reviewed by the joint ILO/IMO Tripartite Working Group (JTWG) in February 2024.

The MSC approved the convening of the ISWG-STCW and its terms of reference, as set out in Annex 1 of Circular Letter No. 4876. The Intersessional Working Group on the Comprehensive Review of the STCW Convention and Code (ISWG-STCW) is scheduled to take place from October 7 to 11, 2024, at the IMO Headquarters. This presents an opportunity for IALA to submit an STCW revision proposal on MBS training.

**Report of NCSR 10**

MSC approved the Descriptions of Maritime Services in the context of e-navigation (MSC.1/Circ.1610/Rev.1), and adopted resolution MSC.530(106)/Rev.1 on Performance standards for electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS) and also, approved the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety Information (MSC.1/Circ.1310/Rev.2) to be implemented as from 1 January 2025.

# Action requested of the Committee

#### **Note** the information provided.