



IMO News Brief

SSE 9



The 9th session of Ship Systems and Equipment Sub-Committee (hereinafter referred to as SSE) was convened as a hybrid meeting from 27th February to 3rd March 2023. This news flash briefs on the outcomes of SSE 9 on major technical issues. In reviewing this flash, readers should be assured that the outputs written herein are not legally effective until they are adopted as mandatory instruments by MSC.

1. Agenda for Life Saving Appliances(LSA) (Agenda 3, 4, 7, 8, 16)

1.1 Requirements for ventilation of survival crafts (Agenda 3)

SSE 8 finalized the ventilation requirements for enclosed lifeboats. On the SSE 9, any compelling need for ventilations of partially enclosed lifeboats and liferafts was discussed, but it was unable to agree. This issue will be discussed on SSE 10, again.

SSE 9 agreed to the amendments including ventilation requirements for enclosed lifeboats to the MSC.1/Circ.1630(Standardized life-saving appliance evaluation and test report forms) for submission to MSC 107 for approval.

1.2 Amendments to LSA Code to revise the lowering speed of survival craft and rescue boats for cargo ships (Agenda 4)

SSE 9 agreed to the amendments to the paragraph 6.1.2.8 and 6.1.2.10 of the LSA code for submission to MSC 107 for approval. The required min. lowering speed should be 1.0m/s or less, and the max. lowering speed should be 1.3m/s.

In addition, it was agreed to expand the application to passenger ships as well as cargo ships, subject to the MSC's final decision.

1.3 Amendments to LSA Code for thermal performance of immersion suits (Agenda 7)

SSE 9 agreed to the amendments to the paragraph 3.2.3 of the Res.MSC.81(70) for submission to MSC 107 for adoption. The amendments are that thermal protective tests of immersion suits should be stopped if the skin temperature of the hand, foot or lumbar region is fall below 10 degrees C for more than 15minutes for safety reasons.

1.4 Amendments to LSA Code for in-water performance of SOLAS lifejackets (Agenda 8)

SSE 9 agreed to the amendments to the paragraph 2.8.7 of the Res.MSC.81(70) and paragraph 2.2.1.6.2 of the LSA Code for submission to MSC 107 for approval. The amendments include test requirement of lifejacket performance that the lifejacket will turn the body of an unconscious person to a face-up position where the nose and mouth are both clear of the water.

1.5 Amendments to LSA Code concerning single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability (Agenda 16)

SSE 9 agreed to the amendments to the paragraph 4.4.7.6.8 of the LSA Code for submission to MSC 107 for approval. The purpose of the amendment is to prevent the unforeseen release for the single fall and hook systems with on-load release capability.

2. Agenda for Fire Protection(FP) (Agenda 6, 10, 11, 15)

2.1 Amendments to SOLAS II-2 and FSS Code to minimize the incidence and consequences of fires on ro-ro spaces of new and existing ro-ro passenger ships (Agenda 6)

For the safety of ro-ro passenger ships, SSE 9 agreed to the amendments to SOLAS Reg.II-2/20, FSS Code Ch.7 and FSS Code Ch.9 for submission to MSC 107 for approval. The amendments to SOLAS Reg.II-2/20 include revision of regulations for fire detection, structural fire protection and fire extinguishing systems to the ro-ro passenger ships.

The amendments will be applicable to new ro-ro passenger ships from 1 January 2026 and to existing ro-ro passenger ships not later than the first survey after 1 January 2028.

2.2 Fire safety for cargo hold of containerhips (Agenda 10)

Documents submitted in SSE 8 and SSE 9 will be reviewed in SSE 10 along with the results of FSA Experts Group's review of the CARGOSAFE FSA Study¹ with a view to taking a holistic approach.

¹ EMSA's study entitled "Study investigating cost efficient measures for reducing the risk from cargo fires on container vessels"

2.3 Amendments of SOLAS and MSC.1/Circ.1456 addressing fire protection of control station on cargo ships (Agenda 11)

SSE 9 agreed to the amendments to the paragraph 5.5 of the SOLAS Reg.II-2/7 and MSC.1/Circ.1456 for submission to MSC 107 for approval. The amendments are that fire detection and alarm system should be provided in all control stations and cargo control rooms on cargo ships.

2.4 Development of provisions to prohibit the use of fire-fighting foams containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) for fire-fighting on board ships (Agenda 15)

The prohibition of the use of fire-fighting foams containing PFOS was agreed on SSE 8(2022.3) and approved MSC 106(2022.11). However, the proposal to replace the term PFOS with PFAS was not agreed. SSE 9 agreed to the change of agenda title to 'Development of provisions to consider prohibiting the use of fire-fighting foams containing fluorinated substances, in addition to PFOS, for fire-fighting on board ships' for MSC 107 approval with a view to further discussion on SSE 10.

3. Other agenda (Agenda 12, 13, and 19)

3.1 Development of diving systems (Agenda 12)

SSE 9 finalized the draft International Code of Safety for Diving Operations(2023 DIVING CODE) for submission to MSC 107 for adoption. This code will apply to ships of not less than 500 GT that have a diving system installed on or after 1 January 2024.

3.2 Validation of Model training course (Agenda 13)

SSE 9 finalized the model training course '3.03 Survey of Machinery Installations' and agreed to the next model course to be revised is '3.04 Survey of Electrical Installations'.

3.3 Interim guidelines for OPS(Onshore Power Supply) (Agenda 13)

SSE 9 finalized the 'Interim guidelines on safe operation of onshore power supply(OPS) service in port for ships engaged on international voyages' for submission to MSC 107 approval.

4. Unified Interpretation(UI) (Agenda 14)

SSE 9 agreed to the following unified interpretations(UI), for submission to MSC 107 for approval.

- (SOLAS Reg.II-1/26) Redundancy philosophy should be applied to all electrical machines used for propulsion.
- (SOLAS Reg.II-1/45.11) Amendments to the MSC.1/Circ.1557(Hazardous area classification) which states that differences between IEC standard and IMO regulation refer to the latest regulations.
- (SOLAS Reg.II-2/9.7) Amendments to the unified interpretation(MSC.1/Circ.1276) refer to the 'all separation of ducts' rather than specifically to galley ducts.
- (LSA Code & HSC Code regarding spare quantities of waterproof electric torch for life saving appliances)
Unified interpretation reflecting the technology advances such as LED lamp.

Should you have inquiries, please contact P.I.C. Thank you.

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