



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
60th session  
Agenda item 3

MEPC 60/3/8  
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## RECYCLING OF SHIPS

### Comments on the report of the correspondence group on ship recycling guidelines

Submitted by Norway

#### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document comments upon the report of the correspondence group on ship recycling guidelines, document MEPC 60/3, and in particular raises the need to ensure that the guidelines communicate well with the end users
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	7.1
<i>High-level action:</i>	7.1.2
<i>Planned output:</i>	7.1.2.2
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 8
<i>Related document:</i>	MEPC 60/3

#### Introduction

1 This document provides comments on document MEPC 60/3 and is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.10.5 of the Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the Committees and their subsidiary bodies (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2).

2 Norway welcomes the work of the correspondence group and takes the view that much valuable input has been provided by the members of the group. Japan has coordinated the work in an excellent way, and the report identifies the main issues raised in the correspondence. Norway compliments the coordinator for the clear presentation in the report regarding the issues the Committee should decide upon as a basis for the further development of these guidelines.

#### Discussion

3 The success of the Hong Kong Convention relies on whether or not the total framework, i.e. the Convention and the associated guidelines, can ensure that the general obligations and the standards of the Convention are met by the industry. Emphasis should now be on developing the

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guidelines in the same spirit of cooperation and balance as was present in the development of the Convention. Thereafter, voluntary implementation as called for in Conference resolution 5, as well as ratifications leading to entry into force of the Convention can be achieved.

4 In the view of Norway, it is of utmost importance that all guidelines are user-friendly and perceived as clear by the end users. This is particularly important for the guidelines for safe and environmentally sound ship recycling.

5 It should also be noted that a ship recycling facility wanting to implement the Convention will need to work on the basis of the legal requirements of the Convention as well as the relevant guidelines, and not only on the basis of one of these instruments. Therefore, the guidelines need to communicate well with the Convention regarding content and structure. In addition, experience from other conventions has identified that, in their implementation of a convention, industry can benefit from the availability of technical manuals and other guidance.

### **Proposal**

6 Responding to the points raised in paragraphs 12 to 22 of the report of the correspondence group, Norway invites the Committee to consider providing the following guidance to the working group in their further development of the guidelines:

- .1 The working group should consider the need to establish a table of contents or a more explanatory introduction on the content of the guidelines;
- .2 The structure of the guidelines should be in line with the structure of the Convention;
- .3 It should be more clear what is to be included in the Ship Recycling Facility Plan and what is not to be included in the plan, and what issues should rather be included in technical manuals or other guidance documents;
- .4 The Guidelines should avoid establishing requirements which are not included in the Convention; and
- .5 The text should be examined in order to ensure that it communicates better with the end users.

7 After further development of the draft guidelines for safe and environmentally sound ship recycling during MEPC 60, it may be useful in the intersessional period to focus on developing the guidelines for the development of the Ship Recycling Plan and the guidelines for the authorization of Ship Recycling Facilities. The final development of these three guidelines should take place in parallel to ensure that they are properly balanced towards each other and, preferably, should be adopted at the same session of the Committee.

### **Action requested of the Committee**

8 The Committee is invited to consider the proposals contained in this document and take action as appropriate.