



IMO

E

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
86th session
Agenda item 17

MSC 86/17
30 January 2009
Original: ENGLISH

FORMAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Outcome of MSC 85 related to formal safety assessment (FSA) and establishment of an FSA Experts Group

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides the outcome of MSC 85 related to formal safety assessment (FSA), in particular regarding the review of FSA studies and establishment of an FSA Experts Group, and proposes the draft terms of reference of the FSA Experts Group
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	12.1
<i>High-level action:</i>	12.1.1
<i>Planned output:</i>	12.1.1.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 11
<i>Related document:</i>	MSC 85/26, section 17

Outcome of MSC 85 relating to an FSA Experts Group

1 The Committee will recall that, at its eighty-fifth session, it took note of the following points relating to establishing an FSA Experts Group, specified in the Guidance on the use of HEAP and FSA (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.6), paragraphs in brackets being those of the Guidance:

- .1 the terms of reference of the group for such a review should be established by the Committee (paragraph 28);
- .2 the Committee should determine the number of meetings necessary to meet the target completion date (paragraph 29);
- .3 participation in the group will be voluntary and is open to all Member Governments and non-governmental organizations (paragraph 32);

- .4 Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the group should be selected by the Committee (paragraph 33); and
- .5 Governments nominate experts who have suitable qualifications in the field of formal safety assessment (paragraphs 34 and 35).

2 With regard to paragraph 1.5 above, MSC 85, while having noted that paragraph 35.1 of the Guidance on the use of HEAP and FSA does not refer to non-governmental organizations, confirmed that non-governmental organizations could also nominate experts who have suitable qualifications in the field of formal safety assessment. Furthermore, notwithstanding paragraph 35.3 of the said Guidance, the Committee agreed that experts who have been involved in the FSA study to be reviewed should also be eligible for nomination, on the condition that those experts would provide useful information on the FSA study to be reviewed.

3 Following the discussion, MSC 85 agreed, in principle, to hold an FSA Experts Group at MSC 86 and took the following course of action:

- .1 invited Member Governments and non-governmental organizations to nominate experts, who have suitable qualifications, in accordance with the Guidance on the use of HEAP and FSA (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.6);
- .2 agreed to select Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the FSA Experts Group at MSC 86; and
- .3 agreed to approve the terms of reference for the FSA Experts Group and the number of meetings at MSC 86.

4 In this context, the Secretariat informed the Committee that it would issue a document well before MSC 86, containing the draft terms of reference, scope and the number of meetings of an FSA Experts Group, to facilitate establishing an FSA Experts Group at MSC 86, and invited Member Governments and non-governmental organizations to submit nominations for experts, if any, to the Secretariat by Friday, 22 May 2009 so that the list of experts would be made available in time for the session.

FSA studies to be reviewed

5 MSC 85, having considered FSA studies submitted by Denmark (MSC 85/17/1, MSC 85/17/2, MSC 85/INF.2 and MSC 85/INF.3), reporting on the FSA study on cruise ships and RoPax ships, which were carried out within the research project SAFEDOR, agreed that these documents, together with documents MEPC 58/17/2 and MEPC 58/INF.2 as invited by MEPC 58, should be referred to the FSA Experts Group for review, when established. In this context, the delegation of Italy, having expressed its concerns over the FSA study on cruise ships that the study was lacking some data, based on rough assumption and needed further review, stated that the outcome of FSA studies should not lead to development of new measures which would replace the existing IMO instruments.

6 It should also be noted that MSC 83, having considered documents MSC 83/21/1, MSC 83/21/2, MSC 83/INF.3 and MSC 83/INF.8 submitted by Denmark, which reported on the FSA study on liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers and containerships carried out within the research project SAFEDOR, agreed, in general, that a group of experts needed to be established, and to consider the matter further at a future session.

Draft terms of reference, scope and the number of meetings of an FSA Experts Group

7 To facilitate establishing an FSA Experts Group, the Secretariat, taking into account the FSA Guidelines (MSC/Circ.1023-MEPC/Circ.392, as amended), has proposed the following scope; draft terms of reference, based on the relevant provisions of the amended Guidance on the use of HEAP and FSA (MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.6); and the number of meetings, of an FSA Experts Group.

Scope

8 There have been FSA studies on various types of ships submitted to the Committee, which have not yet been reviewed or examined by the Committee. Therefore, the FSA Experts Group is expected to review these FSA studies according to the FSA Guidelines and the Guidance on the use of HEAP and FSA and report to the Committee on its result, with a view to action, as appropriate.

Proposed terms of reference

9 The FSA Experts Group should be instructed to review FSA studies submitted by documents MSC 83/21/1, MSC 83/21/2, MSC 83/INF.3 and MSC 83/INF.8; MSC 85/17/1, MSC 85/17/2, MSC 85/INF.2 and MSC 85/INF.3[; and MEPC 58/17/2 and MEPC 58/INF.2, subject to the decision by the MEPC], and, in particular, on each FSA study, to:

- .1 consider whether the methodology was applied in accordance with the FSA Guidelines and the Guidance on the use of HEAP and FSA;
- .2 check the reasonableness of the assumptions and whether the scenarios adequately addressed the issues involved;
- .3 check the validity of the input data and its transparency (e.g., historical data, comprehensiveness, availability of data, etc.);
- .4 check whether risk control options and their interdependence were properly evaluated and supported by the assessment;
- .5 check whether uncertainty and sensitivity issues have been properly addressed in the FSA study;
- .6 check whether the scope of the assessment was met in the FSA study;
- .7 check whether expertise of participants in the FSA study was sufficient for the range of subjects under consideration; and
- .8 provide a report on the above issues, which should include a discussion on any strengths and weaknesses, the lessons learned regarding the FSA Guidelines and the Guidance on the use of HEAP and FSA, and their application and the evidence used to support the conclusions.

Number of meetings

10 The FSA Experts Group is expected to complete the aforementioned terms of reference within [three][four] meetings. However, the group may report on any FSA study which has been finalized by the group, before completing the review of all studies submitted to the Committee.

Action requested of the Committee

11 The Committee is invited to note the above information and take action as appropriate.
