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SUB-COMMITTEE ON STABILITY AND
LOAD LINES AND ON FISHING VESSELS
SAFETY
52nd session
Agenda item 7

SLF 52/7/2
4 December 2009
Original: ENGLISH

GUIDANCE ON THE IMPACT OF OPEN WATERTIGHT DOORS ON EXISTING AND NEW SHIP SURVIVABILITY

Comments on the report of the SDS Correspondence Group

Submitted by Sweden

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document comments on the SDS Correspondence Group's report, SLF 52/7/1, with a proposal to have one common MSC circular for both guidances on open watertight doors developed by the SLF and DE Sub-Committees respectively
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	2
<i>High-level action:</i>	2.1.1
<i>Planned output:</i>	2.1.1.2
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 6
<i>Related documents:</i>	SLF 49/17; MSC 82/24 and SLF 52/7/1

Introduction

1 This document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.10.5 of the Guidelines on the methods of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2) and comments on document SLF 52/7/1.

2 SLF 49 put forward a proposal for a new work programme item to enable the Sub-Committee to develop guidance on the impact of open watertight doors on survivability of passenger ships in the revised SOLAS regulation II-1/1. At the same time, SLF 49 identified the complexity associated with a need for operational guidance to be prepared by the DE Sub-Committee on conditions where watertight doors may be left open for the safe operation of the ship.

3 This was later accepted by MSC 82.

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Development of Guidance

4 Since then the Sub-Committee as well as the DE Sub-Committee have developed guidances in this respect. The result of the Sub-Committee's work can be found in the SDS Correspondence Group's report in document SLF 52/7/1.

5 To facilitate that the end users of these guidances can easily find the guidelines on open watertight doors, both with respect to the impact on survivability as well as policy for determining the need for watertight doors to remain open during navigation in one document, Sweden would like to propose that these two guidelines are issued in one common MSC circular with the two respective guidances as appendixes to the circular.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the proposal to have one common MSC circular for both the guidances developed by the SLF and the DE Sub-Committees.
