



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STABILITY AND
LOAD LINES AND ON FISHING VESSELS
SAFETY
52nd session
Agenda item 9

SLF 52/9
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GUIDELINES FOR VERIFICATION OF DAMAGE STABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TANKERS AND BULK CARRIERS

Outcome of MSC 85

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides the outcome of MSC 85 on matters related to damage stability requirements for tankers and bulk carriers
<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 8
<i>Related document:</i>	MSC 85/26, paragraphs 12.17, 12.18 and 23.36 to 23.41

Outcome of MSC 85

1 In the context of the Sub-Committee's work on development of Guidelines for verification of damage stability requirements for tankers (SLF 51/17, section 13), the delegation of the Cook Islands expressed its concern that the compelling need for the guidelines had not been established, referring to the discussion at SLF 51 that the majority of the delegations considered that no justification or compelling need had been demonstrated and more information on the alleged non-compliance was needed to decide on the course of action on the matter.

2 With the explanation provided by the Chairman of the SLF Sub-Committee and the Secretariat, a number of delegations supported the course of action proposed by the Sub-Committee; however, a number of other delegations shared the concern of the Cook Islands. Following discussion, MSC 85 agreed to deal with the matter under the agenda item on work programme, when considering the proposed extension of the target completion date of the work programme item of the Sub-Committee to 2010.

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3 Under the agenda item on work programme, the delegation of the Cook Islands, supported by others, pointed out that the majority of the delegations who spoke at SLF 51 considered that no justification or compelling need had been demonstrated and that more information on the alleged non-compliance (e.g., type, size, age and the number of vessels involved) is needed from the sponsors of this work item in order to decide on the course of action on the matter.

4 The Chairman of the SLF Sub-Committee informed the Committee that four documents had been submitted and considered at SLF 51, but more time was necessary for the Sub-Committee to complete its technical evaluation, taking into account the target completion date of 2009. Consequently, Member Governments and international organizations were invited to submit the information referred to in the above paragraph. The Chairman of the SLF Sub-Committee also pointed out that the proposed extension of the target completion date was simply administrative since the SLF Sub-Committee will not meet in 2009.

5 Other delegations expressed the view that there is an urgent need to develop guidelines for the verification of damage stability requirements and that the SLF Sub-Committee should therefore be given the time allocated by the Committee to complete its technical evaluation of the matter.

6 In summarizing the debate, the Chairman highlighted that MSC 83 had already agreed on the need for this work item and stated that the SLF Sub-Committee should focus its efforts on the technical aspects, and advise the Committee, in due course, of the outcome of its technical consideration. In supporting the Chairman's views, the Committee agreed to extend the target completion date as requested by the Sub-Committee and agreed that sub-committees should focus their deliberations on the technical or operational aspects of the work assigned. Furthermore, MSC 85 agreed that the next Chairmen's meeting should consider amending the Guidelines on the organization and method of work to avoid repetition of similar cases in future and to encourage submitters of new work programme items to submit relevant information and data to support their proposals at the sub-committee level.

7 Following the Committee's decision, the delegation of the Cook Islands explained that it was not their intention, nor has it been, nor will it ever be their intention, to undermine or question the authority of the Committee over its subsidiary bodies. However, it was their intention to highlight the need for consistency in the manner in which work programme items are considered and to ensure that progression of such items are not, or should not be, dependent upon who, or which Member State or group of Member States, submits a proposal. Nor should consideration be reliant or unduly influenced by any criteria other than justification based on documented facts, not innuendo, and a clear demonstration of need.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

8 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the above information and take action as appropriate.
