



Iranian Classification Society

Convention and Legislation Department

IMO COMMITTEES & SUB-COMMITTEES

Part 1

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A. IMO Committees

A 100 Description

101 The IMO consists of five main policy-making Committees which are responsible for the development, review, updating, and approval of the organization's guidelines and regulations. The Committees report to the organization's Council and Assembly on the status of their Committee and respective Sub-Committees. The Committee sessions are attended by maritime experts from Member Governments, together with those from interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

A 200 List of committees

201 The work of the five Committees is described by their titles, as follows:

- *Facilitation Committee (FAL)*
- *Legal Committee (LEG)*
- *Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)*
- *Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)*
- *Technical Co-operation Committee (TC)*

A 300 FAL

301 The **Facilitation Committee (FAL)** is a subsidiary body of the Council. It was established in May 1972 and deals with IMO's work in eliminating unnecessary formalities and "red tape" in international shipping. Participation in the Facilitation Committee is open to all Member States of IMO.

302 Additional details regarding the Facilitation Committee can be found in the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

A 400 LEG

401 The **Legal Committee (LEG)** is a subsidiary body of the Council. LEG is empowered to deal with any legal matters within the scope of the Organization. The Committee consists of all Member States of IMO. It was established in 1967 as a subsidiary body to deal with legal questions which arose in the aftermath of the Torrey Canyon disaster. The Legal Committee is also empowered to perform any duties within its scope which may be assigned by or under any other international instrument and accepted by the Organization. Additional details regarding the Legal Committee can be found in the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

A 500 MEPC

501 The **Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)** is a subsidiary body of the Council. MEPC, which consists of all Member States, is empowered to consider any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with prevention and control of pollution from ships. In particular it is concerned with the adoption and amendment of conventions and other regulations and measures to ensure their enforcement.

Additional details regarding the MEPC can be found in the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

A 600 MSC

601 The **Maritime Safety Committee (MSC)** is a subsidiary body of the Council. MSC, which consists of all Member States, is the highest technical body of the Organization. The functions of the Maritime Safety Committee are to "consider any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with aids to navigation, construction and equipment of vessels, manning from a safety standpoint, rules for the prevention of collisions, handling of dangerous cargoes, maritime safety procedures and requirements, hydrographic information, log-books and navigational records, marine casualty investigations, salvage and rescue and any other matters directly affecting maritime safety".

602 The Committee is also required to provide machinery for performing any duties assigned to it by the IMO Convention or any duty within its cope of work which may be assigned to it by or under any international instrument and accepted by the Organization. It also has the responsibility for considering and submitting recommendations and guidelines on safety for possible adoption by the Assembly. Additional details regarding the Maritime Safety Committee can be found in the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

A 700 TC

701 The **Technical Co-operation Committee (TC)** is required to consider any matter within the scope of the Organization concerned with the implementation of technical co-operation projects for which the Organization acts as the executing or co-operating agency and any other matters related to the Organization's activities in the technical co-operation field.

702 Additional details regarding the Technical Co-operation Committee can be found in the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

B. IMO Sub-Committees

B 100 Description

101 The IMO consists of **nine technical Sub-Committees** which support the work of the five policy-making Committees. The Sub-Committees are under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). Like the Committee sessions, the Sub-Committee sessions are attended by maritime experts from Member Governments, together with those from interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

B 200 List of Sub-committees

201 The work of the nine Sub-Committees is described by their titles, as follows:

- *Bulk Liquids & Gases (BLG)*
- *Carriage of Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes & Containers (DSC)*
- *Fire Protection (FP)*
- *Flag State Implementation (FSI)*
- *Radio-communications and Search & Rescue (COMSAR)*
- *Safety of Navigation (NAV)*
- *Ship Design & Equipment (DE)*
- *Stability and Load Lines & Fishing Vessels Safety (SLF)*
- *Standards of Training & Watch keeping (STW)*

B 300 BLG

301 Under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Sub-Committee on Bulk Liquids and Gases (BLG) will consider matters related to the following subjects, including the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate, including the role of such measures for the protection of the marine environment:

- Prevention and control of marine pollution from ships and other related maritime operations

involved in the transport and handling of oil and dangerous and noxious liquids substances in bulk;

- Evaluation of hazards of dangerous and noxious liquid substances in bulk transported by ships;
- Control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments;
- Construction, equipment and operational requirements for ships carrying bulk liquids and gases;
- Protection of personnel involved in the transport of bulk liquids and gases; and
- Survey and certification of ships constructed to carry bulk liquids and gases.

302 The conventions and other mandatory instruments referred to above include, as a minimum:

- 1974 SOLAS Convention (chapter VII, parts B and C) and the 1988 Protocol relating thereto;
- MARPOL 73/78 (Annexes I, II, IV and VI, as appropriate);
- International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004;
- International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code);
- International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code); and
- Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code).

303 The non-mandatory instruments, which the Sub-Committee may be called upon to review, include, as a minimum:

- Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (GC Code); and
- Any recommendations and guidelines relevant to the carriage of bulk liquids and gases.

B 400 DSC

401 Under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee and as may be requested by the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC) will consider matters related to the following subjects, including the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non-

mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate, including the role of such measures for the protection of the marine environment:

- Effective implementation of the relevant conventions, codes and other instruments, mandatory or recommendatory, as appropriate, dealing with dry cargo operations, which include dangerous goods, solid bulk cargoes and containers;
- Further enhancement of the safety and security culture, and environmental consciousness in all dry cargo operations;
- Co-operation with other relevant UN bodies, IGO's and NGO's on international standards related to dry cargo operations; and
- Any other issues referred to it by the Committees and their subsidiary bodies.

402 The conventions and other mandatory instruments referred to above include, as a minimum:

- 1974 SOLAS Convention (chapters VI and VII and other relevant parts, as appropriate);
- MARPOL 73/78 (Annex III and other relevant parts, as appropriate);
- International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC);
- International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code;
- International Code for the Safe Carriage of Packaged Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-Level Radioactive Wastes onboard Ships (INF Code); and
- International Code for the Safe Carriage of Grain in Bulk.

403 The non-mandatory instruments, which the Sub-Committee may be called upon to review, include, as a minimum:

- Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes (BC Code);
- Code of Safe Practice for Ships Carrying Timber Deck Cargoes;
- Code of Safe Practice for the Safe Loading and Unloading of Bulk Carriers (BLU Code);
- Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and related Activities in Port Areas;
- Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing (CSS Code);

- Guidelines for the Preparation of the Cargo Securing Manual;
- Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods (EmS Guide);
- Medical First Aid Guide for Use in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods (MFAG);
- Reporting procedures, including inspection programs for cargo transport units carrying dangerous goods; reporting of incidents involving harmful substances and/or marine pollutants; reporting of casualties involving dangerous cargoes;
- IMO/ILO/UN ECE Guidelines for Packing Cargo Transport Units; and
- Recommendations on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Ships.

B 500 FP

501 Under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee and as may be requested by the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Sub-Committee on Fire Protection (FP) will consider matters related to the following subjects, including the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate, including the role of such measures for the protection of the marine environment:

- Fire safety and evacuation of all types of ships, vessels and craft covered by IMO instruments, taking into account the human element aspect;
- Testing and approval of fire safety systems, equipment, constructions and materials; and
- Analysis of fire casualty and incident records.

502 The conventions and other mandatory instruments referred to above include, as a minimum:

- 1974 SOLAS Convention (chapter II-2) and the 1988 Protocol relating thereto;
- International Code for Application of Fire Test Procedures (FTP Code); and
- International Code for Fire Safety Systems (FSS Code).

503 The non-mandatory instruments, which the Sub-Committee may be called upon to review, include, as a minimum:

- Any recommendations and guidelines relevant to fire safety and evacuation.

B 600 FSI

601 Under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Sub-Committee on Flag State Implementation (FSI), in addressing the effective and consistent global implementation and enforcement of IMO instruments concerning maritime safety and security and the protection of the marine environment, will consider matters related to the following subjects, including the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate:

- Comprehensive review of the rights and obligations of States emanating from the IMO treaty instruments;
- Assessment, monitoring and review the current level of implementation of IMO instruments by States in their capacity as flag, port and coastal States and countries training and certifying officers and crews, with a view to identifying areas where States may have difficulties in fully implementing them;
- Identification of the reasons for the difficulties identified in .2 above, taking into account any relevant information collected through, inter alia, the assessment of performance, the investigation of marine casualties and incidents and the in-depth analysis of port State control (PSC) activities, while paying particular attention to the perceived difficulties faced by developing countries;
- Consideration of proposals to assist States in implementing and complying with IMO instruments. Such proposals could be implemented by States or by the Organization in a harmonized and co-ordinated manner and could include the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate;
- Development and maintenance of a system for the analysis of investigations into marine casualties and incidents, with a view to putting in place an efficient and comprehensive

knowledge-based mechanism to support the identification of trends and the IMO rule-making process;

- Review of IMO standards on maritime safety and security and the protection of the marine environment, with a view to maintaining updated and harmonized guidance on survey and certification-related requirements;
- Development and maintenance of a framework to promote the global harmonization and co-ordination of PSC activities; and
- Consideration of and action on any recommendations or instructions from IMO bodies related to the work of the Sub-Committee.

B 700 COMSAR

701 Under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee and as may be requested by the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Sub-Committee on Radio communications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR), in order to improve life saving and ensure effective maritime search and rescue, including maritime distress and safety mobile radio communications and procedures, will consider matters related to the following subjects, including the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate, including the role of such measures for the protection of the marine environment:

1. any technical and operational measures and recommendations on the worldwide implementation of, and amendments to, as appropriate:
 - The International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended;
 - Development and maintenance of the Global SAR Plan;
 - The Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), in particular, matters relating to GMDSS Master Plan;
 - The provisions of the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual in co-operation with the International Civil Aeronautical Organization; and

- Operational communications related to maritime security;
- 2. Proposed measures related to chapters III, IV and V of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as appropriate, in particular:
 - Operational safety measures related to maritime mobile radiocommunications and security;
 - Revision or development of relevant radiocommunication equipment performance standards, maintenance requirements and relevant procedures;
 - Revision of relevant search and rescue equipment performance standards, maintenance requirements and relevant procedures; and
 - Any technical measures with respect to the implementation of SOLAS chapters III, IV and V, as amended;
- 3. ITU maritime mobile radiocommunication matters and liaison with ITU technical bodies on the issues;
- 4. Co-operation with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regarding joint aeronautical and maritime search and rescue issues;
- 5. Revision or development of relevant operational guidelines relating to maritime mobile radiocommunications, search and rescue, maritime security and associated matters; and
- 6. Any other relevant issues referred to it by the Maritime Safety Committee or other technical bodies of the Organization.

B 800 NAV

801

Under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee and as may be requested by the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation (NAV) will consider matters related to the following subjects, including the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate, including the role of such measures for the protection of the marine environment:

- obligations of Governments and operational measures related to safety of navigation, including hydrographic and meteorological services, ships' routing, ship reporting systems, aids to navigation, radionavigation systems, vessel traffic services and pilotage, including the role of such measures in the protection of the marine environment;
- carriage requirements, performance standards and operational guidelines for the use of shipborne navigational equipment and other navigational requirements, including bridge design, bridge visibility and pilot transfer arrangements; and
- operational requirements and guidelines relating to navigational safety and associated issues, such as regulations for the prevention of collisions and groundings, bridge procedures, voyage planning, avoidance of dangerous situations, places of refuge and relevant aspects of maritime security.

802 The conventions and other mandatory instruments referred to above include, as a minimum:

- 1974 SOLAS Convention (chapter V and other relevant chapters, as appropriate) and the 1988 Protocol relating thereto;
- International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972;
- International Code of Signals; and
- International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft (HSC Code), 1994 and 2000, with reference to chapter 13.

803 The non-mandatory instruments, which the Sub-Committee may be called upon to review, include, as a minimum:

- recommendations on performance standards for various shipborne navigational equipment;
- General Provisions on Ships' Routing;
- Guidelines and Criteria for Ship Reporting Systems;
- General Principles for ship reporting systems and ship reporting requirements;
- Guidelines on vessel traffic services;
- Guidelines on the operation of AIS on ships;
- IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases;
- Recommendation on pilot transfer arrangements;
- Guidelines for recording events related to navigation;
- Guidelines for voyage planning;

- revised Maritime policy and requirements for a future global navigation system;
- World-wide radionavigation system;
- Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance; and
- Maritime Assistance Services (MAS).

B 900 DE

901 Under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee and as may be requested by the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment (DE) will consider matters related to the following subjects, including the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate, including the role of such measures for the protection of the marine environment:

- Design, construction, structure, equipment, machinery installations and electrical installations of all types of ships, vessels and craft covered by IMO instruments;
- Life-saving equipment, appliances and arrangements; and
- Survey and certification.

902 The conventions and other mandatory instruments referred to above include, as a minimum:

- 1974 SOLAS Convention (chapters I, II-1, III, X, XI-1 and XII and other relevant chapters, as appropriate) and the 1988 Protocol relating thereto;
- MARPOL 73/78 (Annexes I and IV and other relevant annexes, as appropriate);
- International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code;
- International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft (HSC Code), 1994 and 2000;
- Guidelines on the enhanced programme of inspections during surveys of bulk carriers and oil tankers (resolution A.744(18)); and
- Condition Assessment Scheme (CAS).

903 The non-mandatory instruments, which the Sub-Committee may be called upon to review, include, as a minimum:

- Code of Safety for Dynamically Supported Craft (DSC Code);

- Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Code);
- Code of Safe Practice for the Carriage of Cargoes and Persons by Offshore Supply Vessels (OSV Code);
- Code of Safety for Diving Systems;
- Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships (SPS Code);
- Code on Alarms and Indicators;
- Code on Noise Level on Board Ships;
- Interim Guidelines for Wing-In-Ground (WIG) Craft;
- Standards for Ship Manoeuvrability;
- Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Operation of Passenger Submersible Craft; and
- Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice-Covered Waters.

B 1000 SLF

1001 Under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee and as may be requested by the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety (SLF) will consider matters related to the following subjects, including the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate, including the role of such measures for the protection of the marine environment:

- buoyancy, intact stability and subdivision and damage stability of all types of ships, vessels and craft covered by IMO instruments;
- seakeeping;
- structural strength of ships;
- load line matters;
- tonnage measurement matters; and
- safety of fishermen and fishing vessels.

1002 The conventions and other mandatory instruments referred to above include, as a minimum:

- 1974 SOLAS Convention (chapters II-1 and XII) and the 1988 Protocol relating thereto;
- 1966 LL Convention and the 1988 Protocol relating thereto;
- 1969 Tonnage Convention; and

- 1977 Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, as modified by the 1993 Protocol relating thereto.

1003 The non-mandatory instruments, which the Sub-Committee may be called upon to review, include, as a minimum:

- 2005 Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels, parts A and B;
- 2005 FAO/ILO/IMO Voluntary Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Equipment of Small Fishing Vessels;
- Intact Stability Code; and
- recommendations and guidelines relevant to stability, load line and fishing vessels safety.

B 1100 STW

1101 Under the direct instructions of the Maritime Safety Committee and as may be requested by the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW) will consider matters related to the following subjects, including the development of any necessary amendments to relevant conventions and other mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, as well as the preparation of new mandatory and non-mandatory instruments, guidelines and recommendations, for consideration by the Committees, as appropriate, including the role of such measures for the protection of the marine environment:

- minimum international standards for training and certification of seafarers;
- principles of safe watch keeping;
- minimum international standards for training and certification of fishing vessel personnel;
- maritime safety, security, and environmental protection culture in all ship operations;
- review of the principles of safe manning of ships and training issues related to the human element taking into account technological, organizational, and social developments;
- promotion of awareness of lessons learnt from the analysis of accident and incident reports and information;
- review, updating and revision of IMO model courses;
- co-ordination with relevant UN bodies, IGOs and NGOs on international standards related to the training and certification of seafarers;
- revision/development of relevant guidelines relating to training of seafarers issues, such as

maritime safety, security, and protection of the marine environment; and

- any other relevant issues referred to it by the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies as authorized or directed by these Committees.

1102 The conventions and other mandatory instruments referred to above include, as a minimum:

- 1978 STCW Convention;
- 1995 STCW-F Convention;
- 1974 SOLAS Convention, (as appropriate) and the 1988 Protocol relating thereto;
- MARPOL 73/78 (as appropriate);
- 1977 Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, as modified by the 1993 Protocol relating thereto; and
- STCW Code.

1103 The non-mandatory instruments, which the Sub-Committee may be called upon to review, include, as a minimum:

- Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Code); and
- Principles of Safe Manning.