



MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
89th session
Agenda item 22

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WORK PROGRAMME

Protection of the AIS VHF Data Link; proposal to update resolution MSC.140(76)

Submitted by the Netherlands and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document contains a proposal for inclusion of an unplanned output, aiming for updating of resolution MSC.140(76). This resolution was adopted in December 2002 for the protection of the AIS VHF Data Link, in anticipation of the dissemination of a large volume of class B devices. Since the adoption of the resolution, several other AIS devices have been permitted.

Strategic direction: 5

High-level action: 5.2.4

Planned output: 5.2.4.2

Action to be taken: Paragraph 14

Related document: Resolution MSC.140(76)

Introduction

1 The following proposal for inclusion of an unplanned output is submitted in accordance with the Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the Committees (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2), taking into account the High-level Action Plan for the Organization and priorities for the 2010-2011 biennium (resolution A.1012(26)).

Scope of the proposal

2 Resolution MSC.140(76) was adopted in December 2002 to provide clarification to maritime Administrations regarding the protection of the AIS VHF Data Link (AIS VDL), in anticipation of the large volume of Class B devices that could have a negative impact on the AIS VDL.

3 Since the adoption of resolution MSC.140(76) and as identified in ITU-R M.1371 the following AIS devices are permitted:

- .1 AIS VHF data link (VDL) non-controlling stations;
 - .1.1 AIS shipborne station;
 - .1.1.1 Class A shipborne mobile equipment using SOTDMA technology;
 - .1.1.2 Class B shipborne mobile equipment;
 - Class B "SO" using SOTDMA technology;
 - Class B "CS" using CSTDMA;
 - .1.2 Aids to navigation-AIS station;
 - .1.3 Limited base station (no VDL control functionality);
 - .1.4 Search and rescue mobile aircraft equipment;
 - .1.5 Repeater station;
 - .1.6 AIS Search and Rescue Transmitter (AIS-SART station);
- .2 AIS VDL controlling stations;
 - .2.1 Base station.

4 The co-sponsors therefore propose that the COMSAR Sub-Committee provides an update of resolution MSC.140(76) in view of its approbation by the Maritime Safety Committee.

Need or compelling need

5 The protection of the VHF data link becomes more and more important as new types of AIS devices are implemented. Therefore the co-sponsors of this proposal consider it necessary that the Organization reinforces resolution MSC.140(76) by updating it.

Cost(s) to the maritime industry

6 The update of the resolution as such does not introduce new cost for the maritime industry.

Benefits which would accrue from the proposal

7 The co-sponsors of this proposal are convinced that updating the resolution will provide for better and up-to-date clarification regarding the protection of the AIS VDL and is to the benefit to the maritime industry.

8 It is important that IMO documents are kept aligned with the actual situation of equipment on board. Therefore the work should be achieved with a high degree of priority, and with a completion date in 2012.

9 The proposal is within the scope of the IMO's objectives, as it aims to enhance
usability of AIS and, thereby, to ensure the safety and efficiency of navigation.

10 Since the proposal is directly related to standards for shipborne navigational aids, the subject is within the scope of high-level action 5.2.4 of the current High-level Action Plan.

11 Yes.

12 In the view of the co-sponsors of this proposal the benefit described in paragraph 7
justifies the proposed action.

13 It is estimated that the COMSAR Sub-Committee will need one session to complete
the work.

14 The Committee is invited to consider the proposal and to decide to include the proposed unplanned output in its post-biennial agenda.