

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
102nd session  
Agenda item 2

MSC 102/2/4  
23 March 2020  
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## DECISIONS OF OTHER IMO BODIES

### Outcome of A31: proposal to develop a joint MSC-MEPC circular regarding amendments to HSSC Survey Guidelines

Submitted by the Russian Federation, the United Arab Emirates and IACS

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document discusses the process of updating the *Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)* and proposes a joint MSC-MEPC circular

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* Other work

*Output:* OW 16

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 7

*Related documents:* MSC 102/2/2 and A 31/10/2

## Background

1 This document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.5 of the *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies* (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.1) and provides comments on paragraph 5.1 of MSC 102/2/2.

2 The thirty-first session of the Assembly approved the recommendations of Committee 2 regarding document A 31/10/2 on the process of updating the *Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)*. In particular, the Assembly invited MSC 102 to consider the proposal made in document A 31/10/2 regarding the principle that a survey item should be added to the HSSC Survey Guidelines if it derives from a mandatory requirement, and take action as appropriate.

## **Introduction**

3 The HSSC Survey Guidelines provide an invaluable link between the requirements in IMO-agreed mandatory statutory instruments and the survey and certification of individual ships. In this regard, the HSSC Survey Guidelines are also considered to provide a vital reference source for conducting statutory surveys.

4 In general, IACS considers that the HSSC Survey Guidelines serve well the purpose outlined in paragraph 3 above. However, IACS has noted a number of instances where there is a lack of consistency between provisions in the IMO mandatory instruments and the HSSC Survey Guidelines, as discussed in A 31/10/2.

## **Proposal**

5 Document A 31/10/2 proposed that the Assembly should remind the Committees, as appropriate, that draft amendments to the HSSC Survey Guidelines should not be approved when they include provisions that cannot be directly linked to requirements in mandatory instruments that are, or by the time of adoption of the updated HSSC Survey Guidelines will be, in force.

6 To address the above issue, IACS proposes to reflect this principle in a joint MSC-MEPC circular. The draft circular is offered in the annex to this document.

## **Action requested of the Committee**

7 The Committee is invited to consider the draft joint MSC-MEPC circular set out in the annex and take action, as appropriate.

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**ANNEX**

**DRAFT MSC-MEPC CIRCULAR**

**AMENDMENTS OF THE SURVEY GUIDELINES  
UNDER THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION (HSSC)**

1 The Assembly, at its thirty-first session (25 November to 4 December 2019) instructed the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 102nd session (13 to 22 March 2020), and the Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its seventy-fifth session (30 March to 3 April 2020), to take appropriate action regarding the principle of amending the HSSC Guidelines to ensure consistency with IMO mandatory instruments.

2 The Committees noted the fact that the HSSC Survey Guidelines provide an invaluable link between the requirements in IMO-agreed statutory instruments and the survey and certification of individual ships, and a vital reference source for conducting statutory surveys.

3 The Committees' attention was drawn to the fact that there are a number of instances where there is a lack of consistency between provisions in IMO mandatory instruments and the HSSC Survey Guidelines.

4 Both Committees, having considered the importance of the HSSC Guidelines, agreed that amendments to the HSSC Survey Guidelines introducing new survey items should be approved only when these items can be directly linked to requirements in mandatory instruments that are, or by the time of adoption of the updated HSSC Survey Guidelines will be, in force.

5 Member States are invited to bring the content of this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.

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