



ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Comments on document MSC 111/21/4 pertaining to the assessment of the development of the International Quality Assessment Review Body (IQARB)

Submitted by IACS

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document comments on document MSC 111/21/4 (Secretariat) pertaining to an assessment of the development of IQARB, including proposed terms of reference for a future IMO observer to IQARB. Welcoming the establishment of IQARB, IACS agrees with the logic of appointing an IMO observer to IQARB and recognizes the importance of ensuring that the IMO observer to IQARB is entirely independent of the body it is observing.

Strategic direction, if applicable: 8

Output: 8.16

Action to be taken: Paragraph 9

Related documents: MSC 111/21/4; MSC 110/20/6, MSC 110/21 and MSC 107/19/4

Introduction

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.6) and provides comments on document MSC 111/21/4 (Secretariat) pertaining to an assessment of the development of IQARB including proposed terms of reference for a future IMO observer to IQARB.

Background

2 MSC 110, having considered document MSC 110/20/6 (Secretariat), took the following actions (MSC 110/21, paragraphs 20.14 to 20.20):

- .1 noted the information provided on the possible role change of the IMO consultant/observer to IACS QSCS owing to the developments in IQARB;
- .2 also noted the information provided on the developments of IACS QSCS from February to December 2024;

- .3 agreed to pause the role of the IMO consultant/observer to IACS QSCS until further notice to assess the developments in IQARB; and invited the Secretary-General to develop terms of reference for a future IMO consultant/observer to IQARB, as appropriate, following assessment of the IQARB developments and in consultation with both IACS and IQARB; and
- .4 agreed that any future costs for an IMO consultant/observer to IQARB should be covered by IMO, and invited the Council to approve related budget provisions, if necessary.

Discussion

3 IACS welcomes the significant developments which have occurred in relation to the establishment of IQARB as a community interest company (CIC) and fully supports IQARB's objects and mandate detailed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of document MSC 111/21/4.

4 IACS recalls that MSC 59 (May 1991) had considered a proposal by IACS regarding the participation of IMO in the IACS Quality System and Certification Scheme (QSCS), which was later accepted by MSC 62 (December 1992). Upon reaching that acceptance, the Committee noted that the Secretary-General, following consultation with the MSC Chair and IACS, had appointed an IMO consultant/observer to participate in IACS QSCS, at no cost to the Organization, and to report on QSCS. The arrangement was renewed several times over the years; MSC 99, having noted developments in QSCS, agreed to the indefinite continuation of the participation by an IMO consultant/observer, subject to any future decision of the Committee (MSC 107/19/4, paragraph 1).

Pausing the role of the IMO consultant/observer to IACS QSCS and replacement by an IMO consultant/observer to IQARB

5 In relation to paragraph 2.3 above, and the justification and associated benefits for an IMO observer to IQARB described in paragraphs 14 to 17 of document MSC 111/21/4, IACS believes there would be significant benefit in having an IMO consultant/observer to IQARB acting within the terms of reference set out in the annex to document MSC 111/21/4.

6 For more than three decades, IACS found great benefit in the work performed by the various IMO consultants/observers to QSCS who independently observed and reported fully to the Committee on IACS QSCS. These observations included assessments of the QSCS' development, maintenance, implementation and effectiveness in certifying the quality of IACS members in their functions as both classification societies and recognized organizations (ROs). Without the establishment of IQARB, whose creation IACS was pleased to support, IACS would have continued to engage the IMO consultant/observer to IACS QSCS for the foreseeable future.

7 Having witnessed the development of IQARB in the oversight of quality matters relating to ROs, who are also members of IACS (and, in the future, ROs who are not members of IACS), IACS agrees with the logic of appointing an IMO observer to IQARB, and with an expanded scope of observation and reporting as detailed in document MSC 111/21/4.

8 With respect to the funding decision made by MSC 110 described in paragraph 2.4 above, IACS recognizes the importance of ensuring that the IMO observer to IQARB is entirely independent of the body it is observing.

Action requested of the Committee

9 The Committee is invited to take into consideration the views expressed in paragraphs 5 to 8 above and take action, as appropriate.