

PERMANENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Salient Points

5th Meeting, 2 - 4 June 2015

1. Executive Summary

Attendees

The fifth meeting of the Permanent Cooperation Framework (PCF) for the Investigation of Accidents in the Maritime Transport Sector was held at EMSA premises during 2-4 June 2015.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Steve Clinch, the PCF Chairperson and Mr Francisco Mata Alvarez-Santullano, the Deputy Chairperson.

The meeting was attended by 33 representatives from 25 different organisations. The European Commission was represented by DG – MOVE and assisted by EMSA. The Secretariat for the PCF was provided by EMSA.

Introduction

The main agenda points of the meeting were:

1. Adoption of PCF4 Report and PCF4 Salient points;
2. Updates by Commission, Member States and EMSA;
3. Investigation data (sharing of data – WG1, confidential data – WG3);
4. Outcome of safety investigations (follow-up of safety recommendations – WG2, interim report – WG5, early alerts – WG6);
5. Training of investigators (including WG4 and EMSA training activities);
6. European Maritime Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) (including reporting issues);
7. Marine injuries (WG7);
8. Any Other Business:
 1. EMSA Annual Overview of Marine Casualties and Incidents;
 2. Voyage Data Recorder issue;
 3. Investigation of the fire on board the MS Norman Atlantic;
 4. Scope of Directive;
 5. Safety studies;
 6. Use of RuleCheck by Accident Investigators;
 7. Part-time surveyors;
 8. Issues identified during the implementation of the Directive.

PCF Working Groups Progress Reports

Remaining issues about the data sharing scheme as agreed at the PCF4 meeting were considered by **WG1** and the remaining provisions were clarified. The procedure to proceed with the scheme was addressed. WG has been closed.

Based on the proposal by **WG5**, the PCF reached a consensus about the minimum content of the Interim report. The WG is closed.

"Common principles for follow-up of Safety Recommendations" were submitted by **WG2**. After several amendments, these principles were agreed and the WG was closed.

The PCF agreed upon the final version of the aide-memoire developed by **WG3**, which defined the "Principles to share confidential data". Such principles are to be applied in accordance with national laws, and are applicable to exchanges between EU Member States, and also with non-EU Countries. The WG was closed.

The guidelines related to training and qualification of accident investigators were established by **WG4**. The structure of the document was approved by the PCF. Comments provided will be used by WG4 to further elaborate the guidelines that will be submitted at the PCF6 meeting for a second review, prior to a possible adoption at the PCF7 meeting.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) proposed by **WG6**, as well as general principles to assist the accident investigation bodies in the decision to issue an early alert and request, if necessary an action at Community level by the Commission, were agreed. The WG is closed.

Marine injuries were discussed by **WG7**. Discussions around the legal framework of such casualties took place and proposals on how such casualties should be considered at the Directive level are expected at the next PCF meeting.

The decision at the PCF4 meeting to request the Commission to address the issue of the improper use of VDRs on board ships was concluded by a letter from the PCF Chairperson. The letter was supported by a survey conducted by the WG that concluded that one third of the interrogated VDRs were not satisfactory. The Commission will further proceed with the VDR issue.

European Maritime Casualty Information Platform

Activities related to the EMCIP database were explained by EMSA. These included major upgrades to the occurrence workflow, improved reporting views and the change of access conditions for the reporting tool, the portal and the management tool. The version released mid-April 2015 was very well received by the representatives and the users.

Any Other Business

EMSA informed the PCF on the availability of RuleCheck for AI purposes. Representatives will be given access to IMO, ILO and EU legislation via a web interface.

Several new items were discussed at the PCF5 meeting. The main decisions taken relate to the establishment of several new Working Groups, namely:

- **WG8 – Ship shore / operations with a ship** (Lead DE; assisted DK, LV, UK, MT, SV, PL and EMSA);
- **WG9 – Promulgation of safety recommendations / Actions taken** (Lead: UK assisted by PT, DK and SP);
- **WG10 – Issues identified during the implementation of the Directive** (Lead: NL assisted by PT, FI, UK, SP and EMSA).

Conclusion

The Chairperson concluded by summarising the main decisions taken and closed the meeting. The PCF6 meeting is expected to take place mid-2016.