

Meeting: 1st SSN / LRIT Group Meeting

Place and date: Lisbon, 17 May 2017

Agenda item: SSN version 4 – progress report

Document number: SSN/LRIT 1.4.2

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	This document presents the results of the work of the sub-group for the definition of the technical specifications for the SafeSeaNet version 4 interface.
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 4.
Related documents	n.a.

1 Background

At the 1st meeting of the High Level Steering Group for Governance of the Digital Maritime System & Services (HLSG) (Brussels, 12 October 2016), Member State participants agreed to establish a sub-group for the definition of the technical specifications for SafeSeaNet Version 4 (SSN v4) interface. The sub-group was tasked to draft the detailed technical requirements for SSN v4 in cooperation with EMSA.

The following Member States indicated their intention to participate in the work of the sub-group: Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and from the industry associations, the PROTECT group.

The scope of the SSN v4 was also agreed by the HLSG and it covers the changes that derive from the:

- The revised Waste Business Rules;
- The business rules for reporting of bunkers in SSN;
- Technical amendments to the Hazmat information;
- Amendments to the reporting of Exemptions.

It was agreed that SSN v4 will enter into operation in December 2018.

2 Current Status

The SSN Interface sub-group carried out its tasks in accordance with the agreed terms of reference. The work was organised as follows:

- By correspondence (December 2016 – February 2017)

The functional specifications (System Requirements Specifications document and the Data Mapping report) were distributed for the consideration of the sub-group on 15 December 2016. Several comments were received and a revised version was prepared to address them. The first draft of the technical specifications (XML Messaging Reference Guide) were also prepared and distributed for comments.

- Meeting (28 February 2017, Lisbon)

The System Requirements Specifications and the draft XML Messaging Reference Guide with the comments received from the participants were reviewed in detail during the meeting and each comment was addressed.

In addition, a proposal to improve the commissioning tests procedure was presented by EMSA. This proposal takes into consideration the experience gained during the commissioning procedure for SSN v3. It introduces a pre-production validation process with real data before granting the approval for the national SSN system to connect to the central SSN production environment. It is presented in detail in Annex III.

- By correspondence (28 February 2017 onwards)

The technical specifications were finalised following the meeting. Member States participating to the sub-group proposed some changes to the Data Mapping report which were communicated to the Commission for their consideration by the Single Window sub-group of the HLSC.

3 Proposal Analysis

The functional specifications are provided in Annex I and the revised XML Messaging Reference Guide in Annex II.

In the XML Messaging Reference Guide provided in Annex II, all changes as compared to the current version v3.05 are indicated.

The revised XML Messaging Reference Guide is designed to offer a backward compatibility with SSN v3 messages for the purpose of a transition period where both SSN v3 and SSN v4 messages will be accepted by central SSN. For the purpose of the backward compatibility, several rules which relate to SSN v4 will only be applied in central SSN after the transition period has ended. They are indicated in the XML Messaging Reference Guide.

3.1 PortPlus notification and ship call request/response messages

The revised PortPlus notification includes all details from the notification of waste and cargo residues. It applies the same structure as in SSN v3 with the addition of the indication of the waste delivered at the last port.

The waste codes were also updated to comply with the revised waste business rules. In order to ensure minimum impact to the existing codes, the sub-group agreed to a proposal made by Germany which consists in adding two new values and deleting five. The revised waste codes are provided in Annex B of the XML Messaging Reference Guide. The deletion of the five codes will only be effective after the transition period.

The details of bunkers on board were added to the ship call, request /response messages. The indication whether the bunkers details are available was added to the PortPlus message (as an optional element).

The identification of port facilities was amended to use the port facility's 5-letters LOCODE in addition to the 4-digits port facility's number.

Amendments to the Hazmat details were applied in the ship call request/response messages.

3.2 Exemption notification and request/response messages

The registration of exemptions in SSN will be improved with the following amendments:

- Identification of the port to which the exemption applies to (in addition to the route). This will be a mandatory element for all types of exemptions after the transition period.
- Identification of the port facility in case of Security exemptions.
- Identification of the waste types to which the exemption applies in case of Waste exemptions. It will also be possible to indicate that the exemption is applicable to all waste types by quoting a specific code (i.e. "0000").
- New waste exemptions types: exemption for waste notification, exemption for waste delivery and exemption for waste fees.

In addition to the web interface, SSN will also offer the possibility of requesting information on exemptions through the system-to-system interface using new Exemptions request/response messages. The Exemption request message will offer the possibility to request exemptions granted to a ship, issued by a country, applicable in a port, or of a specific type. It will also be possible to request all active exemptions reported to SSN.

4 Actions required

The Member States are invited to:

- validate the System Requirements Specifications for SSN v4 (Annex I) and the draft XML Messaging Reference Guide v4 (Annex II); and
- provide feedback on the proposal to improve the commissioning tests procedure (Annex III).

It should be noted that the System Requirements Specifications for SSN v4 and the draft XML Messaging Reference Guide v4 will be approved by the HLSG.

Attachments:

Annex I: System Requirements Specifications for SSN v4

Annex II: Draft XML Messaging Reference Guide v4

Annex III: Proposal to improve the Commissioning Tests Process