

PERMANENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Salient points

13th meeting, 27 – 29 June 2023

Attendees

The 13th meeting of the Permanent Cooperation Framework (PCF) for the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector was held on 27-29 June 2023 at EMSA premises in Lisbon (Portugal).

Mr Jonas Bäckstrand (SHK - Sweden) chaired the meeting, assisted by Mr Tiago Sarandes Teixeira (Portugal – GAMA), as Deputy Chairperson.

Thirty-three experts from 25 EU MS / EEA Countries attended the meeting. The European Commission (EC) was represented by DG–MOVE and assisted by EMSA.

EMSA provided the Secretariat for the meeting.

Introduction

The agenda points included the following:

- **Adoption of PCF12 minutes and PCF12 Salient points;**
- **Updates by Member States and EMSA;**
- **Cooperation and exchange of best practices**
 - Feedback on tools facilitating cooperation between AIBs
- **Enhancing safety investigations**
 - Working Group (WG) 13 on human element progress report
 - HE approach for DiGiFeMa (Italy)
 - Availability of VMS data in SEG for accident investigation
 - WG15 Tool supporting evidence data processing
 - Understanding ship behaviour in relation to sea conditions: analysis of seakeeping calculations and model tests
 - Operational support to AIBs – ROVs services for MS
 - ROV interventions in Adriatic Sea and Gulf of Biscay
 - Correspondence Group 1 (CG1) - Misuse of data available in safety reports
- **Investigation reports**
 - Technical observations on final reports for improving their quality
- **Accident Investigation Directive (AID) revision**
 - Update from EC
- **Learning from accidents**
 - Fires involving electric vehicles
 - EMSA data analysis on navigation accidents
 - Annual overview of marine casualties and incidents
 - Study to detect potential Covid-19-related safety issues and emerging risks contributing to marine casualties and incidents
 - Issuing early alerts
- **Training and qualification**
 - WG4 on training and qualification progress report
 - Training activities for accident investigation
- **EMCIP Governance**
 - Update on EMCIP
 - Feedback on data sharing

- Improving reporting in EMCIP
- Reporting casualties involving wind farms and alternative fuels
- Feedback on Incident Reporting (IR) tool for non-registered users
- Improving reporting of "Contributing Factors" in EMCIP
- Data quality
- **AOB**
- **Work Programme**
 - Input for inter-sessional PCF workshop
 - Update / Follow up

Summary

Update by the Member States and PCF Secretariat

MS shared information on the safety investigations carried out after PCF12 (September 2022) and safety topics of interest and delivered presentations on ongoing high-profile investigations.

EMSA mentioned its commitment to provide operational support to AIB upon request as per the Agency's founding regulation and updated the Group on the ongoing projects.

PCF working groups (WG) progress reports

WG4 moved forward with developing the Common Core Curricula on accident investigation in the context of the EMSA Academy. The Group validated the reviewed ILOs, syllabus and the outline of the CCC AI. Furthermore, the Group agreed to use them as a base for the training development.

The Group also validated the document drafted by WG13 supporting AIBs in embracing system thinking in accident investigation and instructed WG13 to continue its work by correspondence. The group discussed input for a PCF inter-session workshop on human element (HE) that is planned to take place at EMSA premises in 2023.

WG10 will remain on stand-by and could be reactivated by the EC to provide technical input in the context of the AID revision.

WG15 provided the Group with a summary of the high-level requirements that could be considered to develop a future ICT tool supporting data processing in accident investigation.

The Correspondence Group 1 (CG1) presented the issues gathered inter-sessionally concerning the misuse of data from safety reports.

Update on AID revision

The Commission updated the Group on the ongoing revision of the AID.

Cooperation and exchange of best practices

The Group took note of the updated version of the "List of web sources to gather information on marine casualties and incidents", "Practices/procedures on data confidentiality when external experts are contracted to support an investigation", and "Updated list of national resources".

Enhancing safety investigations

EMSA provided an overview of the ROV services for AI and the operations already conducted.

The Agency updated the Group on the procedure to visualise VMS data in SEG for accident investigation.

The Group debated the analysis of seakeeping calculations and model tests for understanding ship behaviour in different sea conditions. A dedicated WG was established.

Investigation reports

EMSA recalled the methodology about the technical observation on final reports to improve their quality. A pilot project to test the methodology will be launched with the volunteer Member States.

Training and qualification

EMSA recalled the training initiatives organised after PCF12 and mentioned the tentative plan for 2023. Information concerning the provision of training in the context of the EMSA Academy was also provided.

Learning from accidents

EMSA outlined the safety analysis on EMCIP data concerning navigation accidents that had been published and thanked the MS that volunteered to participate in an expert consultation group to provide technical input to enhance the analysis.

The Agency highlighted the improvements that had been incorporated in the new format of the "Annual overview", including detailed safety indicators measuring the ratio of accidents involving specific vessel types against the relevant ship population and the possibility to download tables in .csv format. The new version is under development.

The Group was updated on the progress of a safety study to detect potential COVID-19-related safety issues and emerging risks contributing to marine casualties and incidents.

The Group debated the emerging risks concerning alternative fuels and energy storage and established a dedicated WG.

The dissemination of early alerts was also discussed within the PCF.

EMCIP Governance

EMSA informed the Group about the new functionalities available in EMCIP, the planned improvements and input from the UG. Feedback on the usage of the incident reporting module for non-registered users was debated. The Group also discussed the EMCIP familiarisation initiatives.

The Agency updated the GG on implementing the reporting schema when other entitled authorities (OEA) are involved and stressed the benefits of sharing the reporting burden between national authorities. The possibility of linking EMCIP to national systems via API was introduced as well.

EMSA provided figures on the requests for EMCIP data received by various stakeholders since PCF12.

The Group discussed taxonomy enhancements to encode accidents related to wind farms and alternative fuels.

EMSA provided an update on the initiative already undertaken and future plans to deal with the EMCIP data quality. These measures, like other exercises already undertaken, will substantially increase the data quality and will be carried out to minimise MS's burden.

The Group debated strategies to enhance the reporting of contributing factors in EMCIP after completing safety investigations.