

PERMANENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Salient points

14th meeting, 4 – 6 June 2024

Attendees

The 14th meeting of the Permanent Cooperation Framework (PCF) for the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector was held on 4-6 June 2024 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, and by EMSA.

Thirty experts from 23 EU MS / EEA Countries attended the meeting. The European Commission (EC) was represented by DG–MOVE.

EMSA provided the Secretariat for the meeting.

Introduction

The agenda points included the following:

- **Adoption of PCF13 minutes and PCF13 Salient points;**
- **Updates by Member States and EMSA (tour-de-table);**
- **Update on revision of Accident Investigation Directive;**
- **Cooperation and exchange of best practices**
 - Feedback on tools facilitating cooperation between AIBs
 - Correspondence Group 1 (CG1) - Misuse of data available in safety reports
 - EMSA database of experts
 - WG10 on AID implementation issues update
- **Enhancing safety investigations**
 - WG13 on human element progress report
 - WG15 on tool supporting evidence data processing
 - WG16 on understanding ship behaviour in relation to sea conditions: analysis of seakeeping calculations and model tests
 - Operational support to AIBs – ROVs services for MS
 - ROV survey of F/V “Villa de Pitanxo”
 - VDR recovery on M/V “Sea Bird”
 - Feedback on the use of SEG in accident investigation
 - EMSA e-laboratory
- **Investigation reports**
 - Technical observations on final reports for improving their quality
- **Learning from accidents**
 - WG17 on alternative fuel and energy storage
 - Safety investigation into the “Viking sky” loss of propulsion
 - Safety investigation into the “Fremantle Highway” fire
 - Follow up of casualties involving safety recommendations
 - 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
 - EMSA data analysis on occupational accidents
- **Training and qualification**
 - WG4 on training and qualification progress report

- Training activities for accident investigation
- Training for Safety investigators on psychological factors
- Presentation on psychological factors
- **EMCIP Governance**
 - EMCIP update
 - Feedback on data sharing
 - Improving data reporting in EMCIP
 - Data quality
 - Data on seafarers fatalities to ILO
- **AOB**
- **Work Programme**
 - Input for inter-sessional PCF workshop
 - Suitable periods to organise the next PCF meetings
 - Update / Follow up

Summary

Update by the Member States and PCF Secretariat

MS shared information on the safety investigations carried out after PCF13 (June 2023) 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.

Update on revision of Directive 2009/18/EC (AID)

The EC delivered a presentation on the state-of-play of the 5 legislative proposals for revision: (i) Directive 2009/21/EC on flag State obligations, (ii) Directive 2009/16/EC on port State control, (iii) Directive 2009/18/EC on maritime accident investigation, (iv) Directive 2005/35/EC on ship-source pollution and (v) EMSA Founding Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002).

PCF working groups (WG) progress reports

WG4 actively contributed to developing the Common Core Curricula on Accident Investigation (CCC AI) in the context of the EMSA Academy. It will continue to provide further input inter-seasonally to enhance the CCC AI.

WG10 was reactivated to consider the challenges stemming from the future implementation of the revised Directive 2009/18/EC.

WG13 will define the content and choreography for a PCF workshop on human and organisational factors that could be organised at EMSA premises during Q4 2024.

WG15 was reconfirmed with the mandate to develop technical and business requirements for a data processing tool supporting safety investigations.

WG16 will collect input to further elaborate the support that research centres, institution etc. can provide to AIB in understanding the ship behaviour in relation to sea conditions.

CG1 provided insight into sensitive legal situations that might materialise during safety investigations in other transport modes, e.g. aviation and railways and was closed.

WG17 proposed input to enhance EMCIP to better report and analyse safety issues affecting alternative fuels and electric storage devices and was closed.

Three new WG were established:

- WG18 to outline a peer-reviewing programme for AIBs

- WG19 to collect experiences regarding challenges when cooperating with 3rd countries and other EU AIBs in joint safety investigations
- WG20 to study safety recommendations as well as the relevant data (e.g. action taken, other preventive measures and safety issues) with a view to exploring the possibility for the PCF to issue recommendations at the community level.

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".

EMSA delivered a presentation on the e-portal for experts and speakers and the procedure for enrolling.

Enhancing safety investigations

EMSA provided an update on the ROV services for AI and the operations already conducted.

Spain and Greece delivered presentations concerning the use of ROV in accident investigation.

EMSA presented the capabilities offered by the e-laboratory to produce advanced multimedia services supporting training, conferences etc.

Germany introduced use cases showing how IMS-SEG can support AI and proposed enhancements to the tool.

Investigation reports

The Group validated the revised methodology concerning the technical observation on final reports to improve their quality. EMSA presented the results of the pilot project conducted with the volunteer MS.

Learning from accidents

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 of downloading tables in .csv format.

The Group was informed about the publication of the safety study to detect potential COVID-19-related safety issues and emerging risks contributing to marine casualties and incidents.

EMSA mentioned that a safety analysis of occupational accidents encoded in EMCIP was ongoing.

France, Luxembourg and Finland introduced a proposal to analyse the safety recommendations and lessons learned with the view to derive recommendations at Community level.

Training and qualification

EMSA recalled the training initiatives organised after PCF13 and outlined the new CCC AI, which was launched in March 2024 under the EMSA Academy framework.

France introduced a paper emphasising the importance of proper training for investigators on psychological factors since investigators and witnesses involved in maritime accident inquiries are subjected to significant emotional pressures.

The *Centre Ressource d'Aide Psychologique En Mer* (CRAPEM) delivered a technical presentation on prevention about risks that might affect seafarers and investigators' mental health, pointing out the possible prevention measures.

EMCIP Governance

EMSA informed the Group about the new functionalities available in EMCIP, the planned improvements, and input from the UG. The enhancements of the portal for public users were detailed, and the Agency stressed the tool's benefit in streamlining data sharing with the public, particularly research centres and universities. The Group also discussed the EMCIP familiarisation initiatives.

The Agency informed the Group that the new interface linking the system to GISIS MCI2 was deployed in production, and tests with the IMO Secretariat were ongoing.

The Agency updated the Group 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 PCF13.

The new provisions requiring MS to report to the ILO aggregated data on seafarers' fatalities were mentioned. The Group was invited to inform the national labour authorities about the possibilities offered by EMCIP in supporting such reporting requirements.

Elections of the PCF Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

The elections of the PCF Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson regularly took place.

Mr Paul Meyers (AET - Luxembourg) was elected as a PCF Chairperson, and Mr. Tiago Teixeira was re-elected as Deputy Chairperson.