



MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
87th session
Agenda item 17

MSC 87/17/3
18 February 2010
Original: ENGLISH

ROLE OF THE HUMAN ELEMENT

Consideration of the human element in the rule making process

Submitted by INTERTANKO and ITF

SUMMARY

Executive summary: INTERTANKO and ITF believe that it would be prudent and appropriate to incorporate the human element principles into the guidelines of the organization (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2). In this regard, we would like to suggest that the Committee gives consideration to including a provision in paragraph 2.10 of the guidelines when considering proposals for new work programme items. The elements of MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.1 and MSC/Circ.763-MEPC/Circ.313 could be reviewed to determine the appropriate provision to be included in paragraph 2.10 of MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2

Strategic direction: 4, 5.4, 6.3, 7.4

High-level action: 4.0.5

Planned output: 4.0.5.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 9

Related documents: A 26/INF.4, A 26/6(b)/2, MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2, MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.1, MSC/Circ.763-MEPC/Circ.313

Background

1 INTERTANKO and ITF submitted document A 26/INF.4 to the twenty-sixth session of the Assembly, informing of the outcome of the "Young Seafarers Focus Group", a three-day workshop organized for young seafarers of different nationalities for them to express their views on a career at sea and on what attracts young people to the shipping industry.

2 Committee 2 of the Assembly noted with appreciation the information provided and agreed to refer document A 26/INF.4 to the MSC and the MEPC for consideration by the Joint MSC/MEPC Working Group on Human Element, and requested INTERTANKO and ITF to submit proposals on how to address the issues raised in the aforementioned document.

Discussion

3 Noting that the majority of the concerns expressed by the seafarers are related to the Human Element, INTERTANKO and ITF believe that proper consideration of the Human Element would be beneficial when developing new regulations and requirements, and we would therefore welcome a discussion on how to better ensure that the Human Element is considered when new requirements are developed and existing requirements are reviewed.

4 In this regard, INTERTANKO and ITF recognize that the "Guidelines on 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.2), contains a paragraph (2.26) which instructs subsidiary bodies to consider the involvement of the human factor whenever new requirements are developed and existing requirements are reviewed, taking into account the human element principles addressed in MSC/Circ.763-MEPC/Circ.313.

5 In addition, MSC/Circ.763-MEPC/Circ.313 (Human Element principles for the work of the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies), contains the human element principles to direct the work of the Maritime Safety Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies.

6 Further, MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.1 (Checklist for considering Human Element issues by IMO bodies), states that the checklist should be completed by all relevant IMO bodies before approving or adopting amendments to mandatory and non mandatory IMO instruments and that Member Governments are encouraged to complete the checklist before submitting proposals for development or amendments to IMO instruments.

7 The co-sponsors believe that it is very appropriate that the Council has decided that the theme for the World Maritime Day 2010 is "Year of the Seafarer". In this regard we were pleased to hear the Secretary-General state in his opening speech to SLF 52 that IMO should "redouble our efforts at the regulatory level to move from words to deeds to create a better world in which seafarers operate".

8 With the above in mind and in an effort to implement the words of the Secretary-General, the co-sponsors believe that it would be prudent and appropriate to better incorporate the human element principles into its guidelines (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2). In this regard, we would like to suggest that the Committee gives consideration to including a provision in paragraph 2.10 of the guidelines (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2) when considering proposals for new work programme items. The elements of MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.1 and MSC/Circ.763-MEPC/Circ.313 could be reviewed to determine the appropriate provision to be included in paragraph 2.10 of MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2. The Committee may wish to have the Human Element Working Group further discuss this suggestion.

Action requested of the Committee

9 The Committee is invited to consider the suggestion in paragraph 8 and decide as appropriate.
