

SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION,  
COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND  
RESCUE  
3rd session  
Agenda item 18

NCSR 3/18  
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## MEASURES TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF PERSONS RESCUED AT SEA

### Industry guidance on large-scale rescue operations at sea: Ensuring the safety and security of seafarers and rescued persons

Submitted by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document provides information on the second edition of "Large-scale rescue operations at sea: Guidance on ensuring the safety and security of seafarers and rescued persons" which supersedes the first edition of the industry Guidance due to be considered at NCSR 3

*Strategic direction:* 5.1

*High-level action:* 5.1.2

*Planned output:* 5.1.2.2

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 11

*Related documents:* MSC 95/22, MSC 95/21/1, MSC 95/21/4/Rev.1, MSC 95/21/13, MSC 95/WP.13; MSC 94/21; FAL 39/16 and III 1/18

#### Background

1 Recalling that MSC 95 agreed that "Large-scale rescue operations at sea: Guidance on ensuring the safety and security of seafarers and rescued persons" should be forwarded to the NCSR Sub-Committee for consideration, this document provides information on the second edition of the industry Guidance which now supersedes the edition presented at MSC 95 (MSC 95/21/1).

2 The second edition of the industry Guidance has been developed by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and is supported by the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA), Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF), International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF), Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), International Association of Dry Cargo Owners (INTERCARGO), International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), International Parcel

Tankers Association (IPTA) and the International Ship Managers' Association (INTERMANAGER).

### Comment

3 The publication of the second edition of the industry Guidance reflects the view of the industry that the Guidance should be updated in response to the experience of seafarers engaged in large-scale rescues at sea.

4 The intention of the industry Guidance remains to assist shipping companies prepare for the requirements of large-scale rescue operations at sea, by considering plans and procedures to ensure the safety and security of ships, seafarers and rescued persons. Industry experience continues to show that timely preparation, supported by clear and effective procedures, will prepare Masters and crews to manage large-scale rescue operations safely, securely and humanely within the capabilities of the ship.

5 The second edition of the industry Guidance includes:

- .1 updated content on preparations and procedures relating to embarkation and management of those rescued;
- .2 security considerations following a large-scale rescue;
- .3 a consolidated step-by-step checklist for large-scale rescues;
- .4 a set of information cards, in English, French and Arabic, providing safety information to those rescued; and
- .5 a template for a record of persons rescued based on the *Guidelines on the treatment of persons rescued at sea* (MSC.167(78) and translated into English, French and Arabic.

6 The industry Guidance can be freely downloaded from the ICS and the IMO websites:

<http://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/default-source/refugee-migrant-rescue/large-scale-rescue-operations-at-sea33E6D8E4E3B2.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

<http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Facilitation/personsrescued/Documents/large-scale-rescue-at-sea.pdf>

7 Recalling that NCSR 3 has been instructed to consider the industry Guidance and advise MSC 96 (MSC 95/22, paragraph 21.17.4), the sponsor reiterates the view, as expressed at MSC 95, that this Guidance should remain a live document for as long as required, promulgated and updated by the industry co-sponsors (MSC 95/22, paragraph 21.16).

8 The industry Guidance is intended to complement existing instructions and guidance detailed in:

- .1 *International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual, Volume III* (IAMSAR Vol. III);
- .2 *Guidelines for the development of plans and procedures for the recovery of persons from the water* (MSC.1/Circ.1447);
- .3 *Guide to recovery techniques* (MSC.1/Circ.1182/Rev.1); and

.4 *Guide for cold water survival* (MSC.1/Circ.1185/Rev.1)).

9 The sponsor considers that, to the extent possible in the circumstances, procedures and guidelines for ships engaged in large-scale rescue operations involving migrants are adequate (as such answering the question contained in Circular Letter No.3572, annex 1, paragraph 3.4). The shipping industry will continue to review the Guidance in response to developments in the Mediterranean and elsewhere to ensure that this remains the case.

10 Any specific comments on the guidelines should be forwarded to [info@ics-shipping.org](mailto:info@ics-shipping.org).

**Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

11 The Sub-Committee is invited to:

- .1 note the second edition of the industry Guidance and the comments in paragraphs 7 to 10;
  - .2 encourage Member States and observer organizations to promote its availability as widely as possible; and
  - .3 take action, as appropriate.
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