

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
102nd session  
Agenda item 22

MSC 102/INF.21  
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Pre-session public release:

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Guidelines for the development of a polar water operational manual

Submitted by ICS and OCIMF

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* This document informs of a recently published and publicly available ICS/OCIMF guidance document entitled "Guidelines for the Development of a Polar Water Operational Manual. The purpose of the guidance document is to help shipping companies and Masters develop a comprehensive Polar Water Operational Manual (PWOM), which must be carried on board ships in accordance with chapter 2 of part I-A of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), tailored to the needs of their individual ships and voyages.

*Strategic direction, if applicable:* 6

*Output:* N/A

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 8

*Related documents:* MSC 99/22 and MSC 99/INF.12

#### General

1 This document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.6 of the *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their Subsidiary Bodies* (MSCMEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.1).

2 At MSC 99 (MSC 99/22, paragraph 21.34), the Committee noted information provided in document MSC 99/INF.12 (ICS and OCIMF) on the ICS and OCIMF initiative to produce industry guidance for the development of a Polar Water Operational Manual (PWOM), which must be carried on board ships in accordance with chapter 2 of part I-A of the *International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code)*. The Committee also noted that it was anticipated that the joint industry guidance, once completed, would be submitted to the Committee for information and for any action that may be deemed appropriate.

## **Guidelines for the development of a Polar Water operational manual**

3 The co-sponsors are pleased to inform that the joint ICS and OCIMF joint Working Group, comprising ships' masters and practitioners with in-depth knowledge and experience in ice navigation and other operations in polar waters, has completed its work and produced a document entitled "Guidelines for the Development of a Polar Water Operational Manual".

### **Purpose, scope and structure**

4 The purpose of the guidance document is to help shipping companies and masters develop a comprehensive PWOM tailored to the needs of their individual ships, taking into account the environmental hazards and nature of operations. The process of carrying out operational assessments and writing the PWOM will give the ship operator and master insights into the risks associated with voyages in polar waters and a deeper understanding of the process. Therefore, users will need to tailor a PWOM to suit the specifics of their ship, environmental conditions and operations.

5 This publication only gives guidance for developing a PWOM and should not be considered as a sample PWOM.

6 The guidance provided in the document is based on appendix 2 of the Polar Code (text in blue), with additional guidance provided by OCIMF and ICS (text in black). The content structure used in the ICS/OCIMF guidance differs, in parts, from the structure used in appendix 2 of the Polar Code and this is also reflected in the section numbering that has been used in the ICS/OCIMF document. This was done to reflect additional content and guidance provided by ICS/OCIMF as well as out of an identified need to make the format clearer. Therefore, for easy reference, the numbering of appendix 2 of the Polar Code is mapped alongside the numbering used in ICS/OCIMF guidance.

### **Public availability**

7 The ICS/OCIMF "Guidelines for the Development of a Polar Water Operational Manual" are now published and publicly available on the ICS and OCIMF websites respectively, through the following links:

- <https://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/default-source/resources/guidelines-for-the-development-of-a-polar-water-operational-manual.pdf?sfvrsn=4>
- <https://www.ocimf.org/publications/information-papers/guidelines-for-the-development-of-a-pwom.aspx>

### **Action requested of the Committee**

8 The Committee is invited to note the information provided.

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