

MANDATORY CODE FOR SHIPS OPERATING IN POLAR WATERS

Comment on the report of the Correspondence Group

Submitted by ICS and CLIA

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document provides comment on the report of the Correspondence Group established by MEPC 66, and suggests that further consideration is necessary to address the practical implications of applying the draft Code to ships making a single or very occasional voyage into Polar Waters.
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	5.2
<i>High-level action:</i>	5.2.1
<i>Planned output:</i>	5.2.1.15
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 7
<i>Related documents:</i>	MEPC 67/9

Introduction

1 This document is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.5 of 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. 4/Rev.2) and provides comment on document MEPC 67/9.

Background

2 MEPC 67/9 reports on the work of a Correspondence Group that was tasked with finalizing parts II-A and II-B of the draft Polar Code. These parts of the draft Code address matters relating to protection of the Marine Environment.

Comment

3 It is reported that when considering whether or not there is a need to include specific provisions relating to single voyages, a majority within the Correspondence Group concluded that as ships making a first or only occasional voyage in Polar Waters should not be exempted from any technical or operational requirement, there was therefore no need to include any specific provision in MARPOL. However, other members of the Group believed that further consideration was necessary, not least on the need to reduce the Administrative burden of re-issuing MARPOL certificates and associated documentation to allow operation in Polar Waters.

4 ICS considers it important that there is internationally agreed guidance in place to ensure that:

- a. The intent of the Code provisions is maintained;
- b. Ships of all flags are addressed in a consistent manner; and
- c. Unnecessary administrative and operational burden for ships, Administrations, Coastal States, and Port States is avoided.

5 During consideration of this agenda item by MSC it was recognised that there was a need for further consideration of situations where a ship would be making its first or only occasional voyages to Polar Waters.

6 ICS believes that this matter is important from a practical operational perspective and suggests that further consideration will be necessary during MEPC 67 and the Intersessional working Group scheduled to meet immediately before the meeting of the Committee.

Action requested of the Committee

7 The Committee is requested to consider the comment provided above and to take action as appropriate.

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