

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
98th session
Agenda item 3

MSC 98/3/7
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**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS
TO MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS**

**Comments on document MSC 98/3
regarding draft amendment to SOLAS regulation II-2/3.56**

Submitted by the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document proposes the revision of the draft amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/3.56 that were approved by MSC 97, relating to the definition of vehicle carrier as well as corresponding amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/20-1.2.1

Strategic direction: 2.0

High-level action: 2.0.1

Output: 2.0.1.5

Action to be taken: Paragraph 8

Related documents: MSC 97/8/7, MSC 97/22, paragraphs 8.17 to 8.19 and annex 14 and MSC 98/3, annex 1

Introduction

1 This document is submitted in accordance with paragraph 6.12.5 of 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.5), and provides comments on the draft amendment to SOLAS regulation II-2/3.56 as set out in annex 1 to document MSC 98/3 (Secretariat).

Background

2 The Committee, at its ninety-seventh session, considered the decisions of the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment that only "pure car and truck carriers" needed to comply with SOLAS regulation II-2/20-1 and that the definition provided in SOLAS regulation II-2/3.56 should be amended accordingly, taking into account document MSC 97/8/7 (Antigua and Barbuda, Germany, Norway and IACS).

3 Consequently, the Committee approved the draft amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/3.56 as set out in annex 14 to document MSC 97/22 (and now reproduced in annex 1 to document MSC 98/3) with a view to adoption at this session, while inviting Member States and international organizations to submit proposals to MSC 98 for further consideration under agenda item 3 (MSC 97/22, paragraphs 8.18 and 8.19).

Discussion

4 IACS has carefully reviewed the draft amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/3.56 approved by MSC 97, as set out in annex 1 to document MSC 98/3, as well as the following views that were provided at MSC 97 (MSC 97/22, paragraph 8.17):

- .1 the proposed amendment might exclude pure car/truck carriers when they carried vehicles that were not empty; and
- .2 the "purpose" paragraph of SOLAS regulation II-2/20-1 might include some inconsistencies in relation to the cargo spaces referred to therein and there should be complete alignment between the provisions of both SOLAS regulations II-2/3.56 and II-2/20-1.

5 Taking into account the above views, IACS proposes to revise the draft amendments to SOLAS regulation II-2/3.56 in order to prevent the unintentional loophole in the definition of vehicle carrier and to eliminate any inconsistencies with the other SOLAS regulations, and to amend SOLAS regulation II-2/20-1 for consistency with the draft amendments to regulation II-2/3.56.

Proposal

6 IACS proposes the revision of the draft amendment to SOLAS regulation II-2/3.56 as approved by MSC 97, as shown below*:

"56 Vehicle carrier means a cargo ship which only carries cargo in ~~with multi-deck~~ ro-ro spaces, and which is primarily designed ~~only~~ for the carriage of unoccupied ~~empty~~ motor vehicles ~~cars and trucks as cargo and excludes other types of ro-ro cargo ships or container/ro-ro ships, even when carrying empty cars and trucks as cargo.~~"

7 IACS also proposes to amend SOLAS regulation II-2/20-1.2.1, as shown below:

"2.1 In addition to complying with the requirements of regulation 20, as appropriate, ~~vehicle spaces of~~ vehicle carriers constructed on or after 1 January 2016 intended for the carriage of motor vehicles with compressed hydrogen or compressed natural gas in their tanks for their own propulsion as cargo shall comply with the requirements in paragraphs 3 to 5 of this regulation."

Action requested of the Committee

8 The Committee is invited to consider the revised draft amendments to SOLAS regulations II-2/3.56 and II-2/20-1.2.1 as set out in paragraphs 6 and 7, respectively, and to take action as appropriate.

* Track changes were created using "strikeout" for deleted text and "grey shading" to highlight all modifications and new insertions, including deleted text.