



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
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Agenda item 11

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IMO STANDARD MARINE COMMUNICATION PHRASES

Submitted by the Republic of Croatia

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports the results of experimental use of the SMCPs and includes proposals for its further implementation
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 6
<i>Related documents:</i>	MSC/Circ.794

Implementation of the SMCPs in the Republic of Croatia

1 The English language departments in Maritime Education and Training (MET) institutions in Croatia received the first official copy of IMO Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCPs 1997) at the International Maritime Lecturers Association (IMLA) Workshop on Maritime English (WOME) held in June 1997. The copy was disseminated to other colleagues in the English language departments throughout Croatia.

2 SMCP 1997, which is a continuation and an upgrading on SMNV 1977 and the amended version in 1985, has therefore been made familiar to all MET establishments in Croatia, in particular the nautical colleges in Rijeka, Split and Dubrovnik, as well as a number of nautical schools in secondary school education. Parts of the SMCP, particularly those that differ from SMNV or those that have been added (e.g. passenger communication) have been taught and practised with the students in addition to regular study and testing of communications required under SMNV in the above MET establishments.

3 SMNV 1985 has been translated into Croatian and a publication with the English and Croatian texts running parallel was published by the major educational publishing company in 1987. The translation of SMCP is now under way.

4 The Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Communications has recommended SMCPs to MET institutions for insertion in the syllabus and teaching programmes. Thus, the SMCP has been included in the syllabi for the courses and examinations to obtain certificates under the STCW Convention, as amended.

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Further implementation of the SMCPs in the Republic of Croatia

5 In addition to the appropriate measures taken in MET institutions, the Government of the Republic of Croatia is now taking steps to introduce SMCP for recommended use on board ships, in SAR organisations, VTS services, pilots and port authorities, etc. The Government will also monitor the application and use of SMCP in the MET institutions and the use of the same in real maritime communications on board Croatian ships and within the waters under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Croatia. Relevant reports will be made periodically and submitted to IMO.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6 Since SMCP 1997 is primarily a handbook of a reference character, the Republic of Croatia considers that there is an urgent need for the elaboration of an internationally acceptable course book which should take into consideration the differences of SMCP language standards and the forms of language used in real spoken and written maritime communications. Preferably, this course book could be an extended or improved version of Seaspeak (it was fully recognised as an aid to maritime communication during the 20th session of STW Sub-Committee as well as a valuable aid in teaching in nautical establishments), taking into account modern requirements in English language teaching (ELT) and in the teaching of English for Specific Purposes (ESP), especially to non-native speakers of English. The Republic of Croatia invites the Sub-Committee to take this proposal into account when considering the SMCPs.
