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SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
36th session
Agenda item 7

STW 36/7
9 September 2004
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MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS WITH LIFEBOATS

Basic safety training and updated work plan from DE 47

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: The document provides information of the recommendation of DE 47 related to basic safety training of crews for free-fall lifeboats and updated work plan for measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats

Action to be taken: Paragraph 3

Related documents: DE 47/25 and DE 47/WP.9

1 The Sub-Committee on Design and Equipment (DE), at its forty-seventh session (25 February to 5 March 2004), after careful consideration, agreed that, to prevent accidents with lifeboats, shore based training is essential, as proposed by the Republic of Korea (DE 47/5/2)*. DE 47 further agreed that the issue of free-fall lifeboat launching training should be referred to the STW Sub-Committee, recommending that the requirements for basic safety training be amended to include a requirement that seafarers serving on ships with free-fall lifeboats have training including participation in a free-fall launch.

2 DE 47 also reviewed the work plan contained in document DE 46/32, annex 11 and agreed to the updated work plan, set out in the annex.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

3 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the above information and decide as appropriate.

* For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring their copies of the document to the session.

ANNEX**UPDATED WORK PLAN FOR MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS
WITH LIFEBOATS****1 Short-term (DE 48 - 2005)**

- .1 evaluate the adequacy of requirements for on-load release devices and remote control winches;
- .2 consider the suitability of current gripping systems, particularly some automatic systems that do not fall clear of the boat or davit. Also consider whether manual release and clearance may be the preferred system;
- .3 identify possible changes to requirements on training and exercising of personnel for referral to the STW Sub-Committee (on-going);
- .4 consider improvements to equipment and procedures for recovery of lifeboats; and
- .5 consider the need to improve free-fall lifeboat seating and launching arrangements, particularly at high launch heights.

2 Medium-term

- .1 consider alternate life-saving concepts to lifeboats and launching appliances;
 - .2 prepare guidelines for development of operation and maintenance manuals for lifeboat systems;
 - .3 prepare guidelines on design, performance and quality of lifeboats; and
 - .4 develop a system approach for life-saving appliances and arrangements.
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