



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
37th session
Agenda item 6

STW 37/6
18 October 2005
Original: ENGLISH

MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS WITH LIFEBOATS

Outcome of DE 48 and MSC 80

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on the outcome of DE 48 and MSC 80 with regard to measures to prevent accidents with lifeboats

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5

Related documents: MSC 80/24, STW 36/17 and DE 48/25

1 The Sub-Committee, at its thirty-sixth session (10 to 14 January 2005), noted the guidance in MSC/Circ.1115 that allowed the flexibility for Administrations to accept free-fall lifeboats being launched from heights greater than 20 metres by falls in lieu of free-fall launching, provided that a simulated free-fall launch is conducted at least every six months, and MSC/Circ.1137 provided guidelines for simulated launching of free-fall lifeboats. STW 36, therefore, agreed that Administrations should also be permitted to accept during drills, all free-fall lifeboats, irrespective of their launching heights, be launched by falls in lieu of free-fall launching, provided that a simulated free-fall launch is conducted at least every six months in accordance with the Organization's guidelines and this view should be referred to DE 48 for consideration.

2 STW 36, further noting that the Committee was aware that this advice was in conflict with the existing provisions of SOLAS regulation III/19.3.3.4, invited MSC 80 to instruct the DE Sub-Committee to consider the need to amend the SOLAS Convention when addressing this issue (STW 36/17, paragraphs 7.10 and 7.11).

3 The DE Sub-Committee, at its forty-eighth session (21 to 25 February 2005), noted the views expressed by STW 36 and agreed to await the instructions of MSC 80 on the matter (DE 48/25, paragraph 5.15).

4 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eightieth session (11 to 20 May 2005), endorsed the views expressed by STW 36. MSC 80, in view of the need to reduce some work load of DE 49, agreed to move, on an *ad hoc* basis for the year 2006 only, this agenda item to the Sub-Committee on Fire Protection (FP 50) (MSC 80/24, paragraphs 11.5 and 21.14).

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

5 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided and take action as appropriate.
