

SUB-COMMITTEE ON STABILITY AND
LOAD LINES AND ON FISHING VESSELS
SAFETY
54th session
Agenda item 9

SLF 54/9/3
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**DEVELOPMENT OF PROVISIONS TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY AND UNIFORM
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1969 TM CONVENTION**

Comments on document MSC 89/9/5

Submitted by the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides comments on document MSC 89/9/5, which Committee has referred to SLF 54 for further consideration.

Strategic direction: 2.0

High-level action: 2.0.1

Planned output: 2.0.1.8

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related documents: MSC 89/9/5 and MSC 89/25 (paragraph 22.34)

Background

1 It is noted that the Maritime Safety Committee at its eighty-ninth session agreed to include, in the 2012-2013 biennial agenda of the SLF Sub-Committee and in the provisional agenda for SLF 54, an output on "Development of provisions to ensure the integrity and uniform implementation of the 1969 TM Convention", with a target completion year of 2014. In this regard, the Committee also agreed to forward document MSC 89/9/5 (Germany) to SLF 54 for consideration under the new output (MSC 89/25, paragraph 22.34).

Discussion

2 Having carefully reviewed document MSC 89/9/5, IACS acknowledges and appreciates the efforts being made in this document and others that the Organization has considered in recent years on the same issue to improve the accommodation provided for crews.

3 However, IACS would urge the Sub-Committee, in its further and detailed consideration of document MSC 89/9/5, to consider the implications of undertaking such new tonnage recalculations and the re-issuance of the certificates. For existing ships, IACS believes that finding the information required will not be straightforward in all cases, and the recalculations will take time to do, perhaps a very considerable amount of time.

4 If the Sub-Committee decides that this new formula, as proposed in document MSC 89/9/5, should be used, then IACS members will, of course, provide any help and support they can with the recalculation and re-issue of the certificates. IACS believes it will be very important that any decision taken in this regard make it clear which ships will be affected – new ships only or all existing ships.

5 Noting paragraph 5 of document MSC 89/9/5, i.e. "thus inviting flag States and/or port authorities to make use of this additional figure", it is assumed that the calculation will be voluntary. However, clarity on this matter would also be necessary. If this new calculation is to be voluntary, IACS has concerns that this new tonnage will not, in practice, be used by any of the bodies which set tonnage-related fees (registration, harbour dues, etc.) and, consequently, not deliver the desired practical benefits.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to take account of the above observations and comments in its further consideration of document MSC 89/9/5.