



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alan Spackman, Vice President, Offshore Division

SUBJECT: Report on the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the Facilitation Committee

DATE: 5 June 2013

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The 38<sup>th</sup> session of the IMO Facilitation Committee met from 8 to 12 April 2013 under the chairmanship of Mr. Yury Melenas (Russian Federation). Representatives from 66 IMO-Member States participated, along with representatives from one Associate Member, two UN specialized agencies, two intergovernmental organizations, and 23 non-governmental organizations. IADC was not represented at this meeting.

The following is a summary of issues addressed by the Sub-Committee that may interest to those in the offshore oil and gas industries:

### ***General review of the Convention***

The Committee re-established and approved terms of reference for a Correspondence Group, coordinated by France<sup>1</sup>, to:

- make further progress, taking into account earlier discussions on the general revision of the annex to the FAL Convention;
- advise on and provide proper justification for the date of application when the establishment of electronic exchange of information should become mandatory;
- draft text, clearly distinguished in the report of the correspondence group from the text of the annex to the Convention, that can be used for the revision of the Explanatory Manual in order to provide further clarification and background information for the amendments made and, particularly, for:
  - .1 Standard 2.16.1 to provide justification for the inclusion of the word "residence"; and
  - .2 Standard 2.23 in respect to shipowner's liability;
- draft provisions regarding amendments to previously lodged information or documents;
- advise on the outstanding issue regarding the inclusion of a visa number, if appropriate, in the passenger list;
- consider the inclusion of draught information to the data elements of the General Declaration;
- consider the proposed amendment to Standard 3.44 in respect of "clear grounds";
- identify outdated provisions in the current Standards and Recommended Practices, taking into account the incorporated requirements of other international conventions;
- identify the changes needed to align the FAL forms with the proposed changes of Standards;
- consider the remaining issues identified by the Maritime Safety Committee, i.e.:
  - .1 augmenting information associated with the impact of stowaways on issues related to safety, and specifically the available capacity of life-saving appliances provided on board and the total number of persons permitted; and
  - .2 systematically reviewing the words "return" and "remove";
- consider FAL.6/Circ.13 on Facilitation in avoiding safety threatening conditions;

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- take into account the identified areas for amendment of the Explanatory Manual and in the course of the review of the annex to the Convention, identify further guidelines that need to be included in the Explanatory Manual; and
- consider the inclusion of the trade recovery and contingency practices.

#### **Online access to certificates and documents**

The Committee invited submissions on how to put in place the system of online access to certificates and documents or a ship-based system, with a view to FAL 40 developing guidelines for online access and incorporating electronic certificates through the Single Window concept.

#### **Promoting the effective use of information and communication technology**

The Committee approved the draft Assembly resolution on Notification and circulation through the global integrated shipping information system (GISIS). The resolution urges Member States to use the reporting facilities available through GISIS.

#### **Circulars**

The Committee adopted the Circulars listed below. Circulars are made available on the IMO website ([www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org)) by following the link to "[Circulars](#)" at the bottom of the page:

Circular number	Title
FAL.2/Circ.127	Revised list of certificates and documents required to be carried on board ships (subject to concurrent decision of the Marine Environment Protection Committee and Maritime Safety Committee)
FAL.3/Circ.209	Revised Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the Facilitation Committee
FAL.5/Circ.39	Interim Guidelines for use of printed versions of electronic certificates
FAL.5/Circ.40	Revised IMO Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic Business
FAL.6/Circ.16	Guidelines on measures towards enhancing maritime trade recovery related to the global supply chain system and maritime conveyances

#### **Discontinuance of the trial of the IMO Stowaway Focal Point**

While the Committee agreed that stowaways still remain a major problem for international maritime traffic, in view of the very low activity of the IMO Stowaway Focal Point since its creation in 2007, and the day-to-day practicalities of stowaway incidents, *i.e.* in the great majority of cases the incidents are handled at local level by relevant authorities and representatives of the P&I Clubs, there is little or no role for the Secretariat. The Committee therefore agreed to discontinue the trial of the IMO Stowaway Focal Point, but noted the availability of the Secretariat to assist Member States where considered necessary towards the successful and expeditious resolution of stowaway cases.

#### **Work program**

The proposed planned and proposed outputs for the Committee include the following:

Description	Number	Parent	Coordinating	Involved	Target
Comprehensive review of the FAL Convention	8.0.1.1	FAL			2013
Electronic access to, or electronic versions of, certificates and documents required to be carried on ships	8.0.3.2	FAL	MSC, MEPC, LEG	LEG, FSI	2013 Postponed

### **Arrangements for the next session**

The Committee's 39<sup>th</sup> session is tentatively scheduled from 20 to 24 October 2014. It has been agreed that working groups should be established on:

- General review and implementation of the Convention;
- Electronic access to, or electronic versions of, certificates and documents required to be carried on ships; and
- Training of mooring personnel.

### **Elections**

The Committee re-elected Mr. Yuri Melenas (Russian Federation) to the post of Chairman and Mrs. Marina Angsell (Sweden) to the post of Vice-Chairman for 2014.

The complete report of the Committee, including annexes to the report, is available on the IADC's website at: <http://iadc.org/committees/offshore/IMO.html>.

Please feel free to contact me by phone (+1/713 292 1964) or e-mail ([alan.spackman@iadc.org](mailto:alan.spackman@iadc.org)) with any questions you may have regarding this report.