



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Improved Incident Reporting Rate Sought by IMO

International Maritime Organization (IMO) member states are being implored to improve their performance in delivering investigation reports on serious maritime incidents.

According to a “Note by the Secretariat” issued after the recent eighth session of the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments, of the 2340 “very serious marine casualties” occurring January 2010-December 2019, only 1439 reports of investigation have been filed.

In order to assist member states enhance this 61.5% reporting rate, the secretariat is understood to be pursuing the following initiatives:

- capacity-building activities under the Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme including workshops on data reporting
- outreach partnership through data exchange protocols (European Maritime Safety Agency) and an initiated data trend analysis project in co-operation with the Marine Accident Investigators’ International Forum and the World Maritime University
- issuance of individual letters providing member states with streamlined information on outstanding reporting on very serious marine casualties

The secretariat noted the issue had also been highlighted in the 92nd session of the IMO’s Maritime Safety Committee, with strategy considered to help increase the reporting rate on very serious marine casualties and the collection of casualty data to support trend analysis.

“In this context, the sub-committee called for the support of a robust notification mechanism ... while indicating the potential role of the new taxonomy of the MCI [Marine Casualties and Incidents] module,” stated the secretariat.

“In order to assist member states in achieving, individually and collectively, a substantial increase in the above-mentioned reporting rate, the secretariat is communicating a list of potential outstanding reports of investigation into very serious marine casualties, for the period 2010 to 2020 involving SOLAS ships, to identified reporting states that have potential outstanding cases of reporting for their immediate assistance to reduce, as effectively as possible, the number of outstanding reports.

“In this context, reporting states are invited to review their outstanding reporting cases of casualty investigation, fulfil their reporting obligations through the MCI module and provide feedback on GISIS [Global Integrated Shipping Information System] entries which may need to be amended or updated in accordance with the scope of the mandatory reporting scheme under chapter 14 of the Casualty Investigation Code.”

The secretariat noted the importance of the reports in assisting the IMO to identify safety issues with a view to improving maritime safety, protecting the marine environment and preventing reoccurrence of incidents.

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