

SUB-COMMITTEE ON SHIP DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION
10th session
Agenda item 12

SDC 10/12/1
28 November 2023
Original: ENGLISH
Pre-session public release:

**GUIDELINES FOR USE OF FIBRE-REINFORCED PLASTICS (FRP)
WITHIN SHIP STRUCTURES**

Proposals for terms of reference for intersessional work on FRP

Submitted by CESA

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document comments on document SDC 10/12 (Germany and CESA) regarding the use of Fibre-Reinforced Plastics (FRP) and proposes terms of reference for a correspondence group and for an intersessional working group, as proposed in document SDC 10/12.

*Strategic direction,
if applicable:* 2

Output: 2.6

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: SDC 10/12; SDC 9/16 and MSC 107/20

Introduction

1 This document comments on document SDC 10/12 (Germany and CESA) on "Important considerations regarding the use of fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP) within ship structures" and is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6.12.5 of MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.5.

2 Document SDC 10/12 proposes a number of considerations for the review of the current *Interim guidelines for use of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) elements within ship structures: Fire safety issues* (MSC.1/Circ.1574) (Interim Guidelines) and timelines for the finalization of this review. Importantly, it invites the Sub-Committee to discuss whether requirements stemming from SOLAS would conflict with the revised Interim Guidelines.

3 Furthermore, SDC 10/12 invites the Sub-Committee to:

- .1 consider whether a consequential amendment of SOLAS is required to enable the use of FRP in structures and advise MSC 108 accordingly;

- .2 establish a correspondence group preparing the revision of the current Interim Guidelines taking into consideration information contained in this submission;
- .3 establish an intersessional working group between SDC 10 and SDC 11;
- .4 establish a working group during SDC 11 to finalize the draft revised Interim Guidelines in order to submit these to the following meeting of MSC for approval; and
- .5 to encourage interested delegations to submit proposals to the next MSC and SDC meetings and work intersessionally.

4 Considering the proposals in paragraph 12 of document SDC 10/12 this document proposes terms of reference for the intersessional work anticipated to take place between SDC 10 and SDC 11.

Discussion

- 5 The Sub-Committee is invited to instruct the correspondence group, if established, to:
- .1 review the Interim Guidelines for use of fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP);
 - .2 invite for and consider input concerning experience gained in the use of the Interim Guidelines (reference MSC.1/Circ.1574, preamble, paragraph 4);
 - .3 consider the information provided in document SDC 10/12 by Germany and CESA as well as in other relevant documents and through discussions during SDC 10;
 - .4 address concerns raised during SDC 9 regarding recycling and fire safety (SDC 9/16, paragraph 15.10);
 - .5 consider and advise whether other IMO instruments (e.g. SOLAS, FTP Code) should be amended in order to enable and support the use of FRP and prepare draft justification for expansion of the output;
 - .6 prepare amendments to the Interim Guidelines for use of fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP);
 - .7 consider what other steps may be appropriate enabling and supporting the use of FRP in vessels under SOLAS and advise accordingly;
 - .8 provide, for consideration by the intersessional working group, if established, the latest draft of the Interim Guidelines and any outcome of the discussions with respect to .2 to .7 above;
 - .9 incorporate the outcome of the intersessional working group, if established; and
 - .10 submit a written report to SDC 11.

6 The Sub-Committee is also invited to instruct the Intersessional Working Group on the review of the Interim guidelines for use of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (MSC.1/Circ.1574), if established, to:

- .1 review the Interim guidelines for use of Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) elements within ship structures: Fire safety issues (MSC.1/Circ.1574) (Interim Guidelines), based on the latest draft provided by the intersessional correspondence group, if established;
- .2 invite and consider input concerning experience gained with the use of the Interim Guidelines;
- .3 consider the information provided in document SDC 10/12 by Germany and CESA as well as in other relevant documents and through discussions during SDC 10;
- .4 address concerns raised during SDC 9 regarding recycling and fire safety (SDC 9/16, paragraph 15.10);
- .5 consider and advise whether other IMO instruments (e.g. SOLAS, FTP Code) should be amended in order to enable and support the use of FRP and prepare draft justification for expansion of the output;
- .6 prepare amendments to the Interim Guidelines for use of fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP);
- .7 consider what other steps may be appropriate enabling and supporting the use of FRP in vessels under SOLAS and advise accordingly;
- .8 take into account the outcome of the discussions of the intersessional Correspondence Group, if established, with respect to .1 to .7 above; and
- .9 submit a written report to SDC 11.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

7 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information, consider the proposals contained in paragraphs 5 and 6, and take action, as appropriate.
