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### MAJOR ISSUE OF THE MONTH

#### USA, USCG – evaluating effectiveness of Crew Endurance Management System (CEMS) implementation

The US Coast Guard issued a navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular ([NVIC 02-08](#)) regarding criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of crew endurance management system (CEMS) implementation. The guidance is intended to assist ship owners and operators in evaluating their programs to monitor and control fatigue experienced by crew members.

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### IMO CONTACT POINTS UPDATE

#### IMO - MSC-MEPC.6/Circ.4 (ANNEX 2 for SOPEP/SMPEP)

IMO has issued the latest ([SOPEP Contact points updated as of 31/3/2008](#)) List Of National Operational Contact Points Responsible For The Receipt, Transmission And Processing Of Urgent Reports On Incidents Involving Harmful Substances, Including Oil From Ships To Coastal States. This information enables compliance with Regulation 37 of MARPOL Annex 1 and Regulation 17 of MARPOL Annex II which, inter alia, require that the shipboard marine pollution emergency plans for oil (SOPEP) and/or noxious liquid substances (SMEP) shall contain a list of authorities or persons to be contacted in the event of a pollution incident involving such substances.

#### IMO - MSC-MEPC.6/Circ.4 Annex 1 (National Authorities and PSC Contact Points)

IMO has issued the latest ([NATIONAL Authorities Contact points updated as of 1/2008](#))

Amalgamated list of national inspection services - head offices (originally MSC/Circ.630), national inspection services - local offices (originally MSC/Circ.630), inspection services acting as representatives of flag States for port State control matters and responsible authorities in charge of casualty investigation (originally

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MSC/Circ.542), as well as the Secretariats of Memoranda of Understanding on Port State Control. Effective 29 February 2008, Member States will directly update their respective information in the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS), using the reporting facilities of the Contact Points module.

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### IMO NEWS

#### IMO – meeting with EC

The IMO issued a [press release](#) stating that Secretary-General Efthimios Mitropoulos met with Mr. Jacques Barrot, Vice-President of the European Commission (EC) and Commissioner for Transport at IMO Headquarters. Topics discussed included ship emissions; the EC observer status and participation at IMO; the EC's Third Maritime Safety Package; and technical cooperation.

#### IMO – Estonia is first to sign Wreck Removal Convention

The IMO issued a [news release](#) stating that the Republic of Estonia has become the first country to sign, subject to ratification, the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007. The Convention will come into effect twelve months after it has been accepted by ten States.

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### NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND PORT STATE CONTROL NEWS

#### Europe, EMSA – March newsletter

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) released the [March 2008](#) edition of its newsletter. The edition discusses, among other things, training inspections undertaken in Bangladesh and a pilot course on response to hazardous and noxious substance (HNS) incidents.

#### Europe, EC – Methanol fuel cells for ships

The European Commission (EC) issued a [news release](#) stating that its project to develop a renewable methanol-based auxiliary power system for commercial vessels is about to commence trials.

#### Australia – transfer operations in Australian waters

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a notice ([Marine Notice 7/2008](#)) requesting that early notification be provided to the AMSA when ship-to-ship transfers of persons, cargo, or other goods are intended to be undertaken in Australian waters. Such transfers should be done in accordance with pertinent industry guidelines and steps should be taken to minimize the risk of casualty and pollution.

#### Australia – contact details for incident reports

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a notice ([Marine Notice 8/2008](#)) advising owners, operators, and masters that the contact details for submittal of incident reports (i.e., Form AMSA 19) have changed.

#### Australia – AMSA inspectors entering lifeboats

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) issued a notice ([Marine Notice 9/2008](#)) intending to reduce the exposure to risk of AMSA surveyors inspecting lifeboats during port state control inspections. When the lifeboat is fully housed, the AMSA surveyor will not rely solely on the boat harbor pins and gripes for safe entry. Rather, entry will be made only after additional restraints have been fitted, unless the surveyor is satisfied that the lifeboat release arrangements are correctly set.

#### Singapore – wireless broadband internet service

The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a [news release](#) stating that WiMAX – wireless broadband internet service has commenced for the Port of Singapore, out to 15 km from shore.

#### Singapore – dedicated maritime career portal

The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority issued a news release stating that it launched [Maritime One](#), an Internet portal dedicated to promoting maritime careers and education, bringing prospective employers and employees together, and featuring jobs in the various maritime sectors.

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### Singapore – underwater diving operations

The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular ([Port Marine Circular No. 05 of 2008](#)) stating that all underwater diving operations in Singapore waters (with the exception of recreational diving in designated waters) may be done only with MPA permission and that such permission must be requested at least three days in advance.

### Singapore – waiver of port dues for double-hulled bunker tankers

The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular ([Port Marine Circular No. 06 of 2008](#)) providing for a 5-year waiver of harbor craft port dues for new double-hull bunker tankers first licensed from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011. Bunker tankers that are 16 years old and above will be assessed a surcharge, with effect from 1 January 2009.

### Singapore – implementation of marine environmental protection instruments

The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular ([Shipping Circular No. 8 of 2008](#)) providing guidance for implementation of MARPOL 73/78 and other IMO instruments related to protection of the marine environment.

### United Kingdom, MAIB – Safety Digest regarding leisure vessels

The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued a [Safety Digest](#) summarizing 23 cases of leisure vessel accidents. Review of these cases may assist recreational boaters in becoming more aware of risks involved in these activities.

### USCG – random drug testing rate

The US Coast Guard issued a notice ([73 Fed. Reg. 13007](#)) stating that the calendar year 2008 minimum random drug testing rate for covered US crewmembers is 50%. The 2006 data indicates that the positive test rate was 1.31%. The random drug testing results for 2007 must be submitted to the Coast Guard not later than April 15.

### USA, USCG – revised application for VRP approval/revision

The US Coast Guard has revised its Form CG-6083 (12/07) - [Application for Approval/Revision of Pollution Response Plans](#). The application for Revision/Approval of Vessel Response Plans form (CG-6083) is offered to plan submitters as an alternative to providing a formal cover letter attachment to a Vessel Response Plan new submission or plan revision. Additionally, Section 8 of the Application meets the requirement for a Vessel Response Plan Certification Statement as required by 33 CFR § 155.1065(b), when completed properly. The completed CG-6083 and accompanying paperwork may be submitted by facsimile to (202) 372-1921 or E-mail at [VRP@USCG.MIL](mailto:VRP@USCG.MIL), provided that the submission is no greater than 15 pages or 1.5 megabytes in size, respectively.

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## VIOLATIONS & PENALTIES

### USA, Baltimore – five crew members arrested for intoxication

The US Attorney for the District of Maryland issued a [news release](#) stating that five crew members of a foreign freighter have been arrested and charged with illegally operating a commercial vessel due to intoxication.

### USA, DOJ – pilot charged in San Francisco Bay oil spill

The US Department of Justice issued a [news release](#) stating that the pilot of the container ship COSCO BUSAN has been charged with violations of federal criminal law. The vessel allided with a pier of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on November 7, 2007 spilling approximately 58,000 gallons of bunker fuel.

The criminal information alleges that the pilot negligently caused the oil spill in violation of the Clean Water Act as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). A violation, if proven, carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a fine of \$100,000.

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### INCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORTS

#### Canada – marine investigation report re passenger ferry sinking

The Transportation Safety Board (TSB) of Canada issued the report of its investigation ([M06W0052](#)) into the striking and sinking of the passenger and vehicle ferry QUEEN OF THE NORTH at Gil Island, British Columbia on 22 March 2006. The primary cause of the incident was the failure of the officer of the watch to order a planned course change and his continuing failure to check the ship's position until the grounding occurred approximately 14 minutes later. Contributing causes included the failure to maintain good watchkeeping procedures, failure to provide adequate training on new equipment, and failure to conduct adequate abandon-ship drills.

#### Canada –ferry safety improvements

Transport Canada issued a [news release](#) outlining actions it has taken to improve ferry safety subsequent to the grounding of the ferry QUEEN OF THE NORTH in 2006. Among other things, officers and crew of ferries are now required to hold passenger safety management certificates and passenger counts are now required.

#### United Kingdom, MAIB – MAIB preliminary examination

The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued a [summary](#) of its preliminary examination into a close quarters situation the involved the QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 and the passenger ferry PRIDE OF KENT in the Dover Strait on 15 December 2007. Investigation reveals that the QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 failed to give way as required. The PRIDE OF KENT eventually reduced speed and passed astern. The operator of the QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 will take remedial action.

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### SECURITY AND PIRACY REPORTING UPDATE

#### USA, USCG – conditions of entry regarding vessels arriving from Iran

The US Coast Guard issued a Port Security Advisory 3-08 ([73 Fed. Reg. 14993](#)) stating that, effective April 2, it will impose conditions of entry on vessels arriving from Iran. Any vessel arriving in the United States that called in Iran during its previous five port calls must demonstrate the following:

- (1) that it implemented measures in accordance with the ship's security plan equivalent to Security Level 2;
- (2) that each access point to the vessel was guarded and that the guards had total visibility of the exterior to the ship while in the Indonesian port;
- (3) that it attempted to execute a Declaration of Security;
- (4) that it logged all security actions in the ship's log;
- (5) that it reported such actions to the USCG Captain of the Port (COTP) prior to arrival in the United States; and
- (6) that each access point to the vessel is guarded and that the guards have total visibility of the exterior to the ship during US port calls.

Note: Similar conditions of entry have been imposed on ships arriving in the United States from Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Liberia, and Mauritania.

#### USA, USCG – conditions of entry regarding vessels arriving from Syria

The US Coast Guard issued a Port Security Advisory 3-08 ([73 Fed. Reg. 12186](#)) stating that, effective March 20, it will impose conditions of entry on vessels arriving from Syria. With the exception of vessels arriving from certain named ports, any vessel arriving in the United States that called in Syria during its previous five port calls must demonstrate the following:

- (1) that it implemented measures in accordance with the ship's security plan equivalent to Security Level 2;
- (2) that each access point to the vessel was guarded and that the guards had total visibility of the exterior to the ship while in the Indonesian port;
- (3) that it attempted to execute a Declaration of Security;
- (4) that it logged all security actions in the ship's log;
- (5) that it reported such actions to the USCG Captain of the Port (COTP) prior to arrival in the United States; and
- (6) that each access point to the vessel is guarded and that the guards have total visibility of the exterior to the ship during US port calls.

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### **Piracy reporting update Reporting of incidents**

In accordance with IMO and other third parties all ships are advised to maintain anti-piracy watches and report all piratical attacks and suspicious movements of craft to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tel ++ 60 3 2078 5763

Fax ++ 60 3 2078 5769

Telex MA 31880 IMBPCI

24 Hours Anti Piracy HELPLINE Tel: ++ 60 3 2031 0014

E-mail [imbkl@icc-ccs.org](mailto:imbkl@icc-ccs.org)

To view the latest Weekly Piracy Report please see [IMB website](#).

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