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AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ON SHIPS' ROUTEING

1 At its sixty-fifth session (9 to 17 May 1995), the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 65/25, paragraph 3.8), as a consequence of adopting the amendments to regulation V/8 of the SOLAS Convention on Routeing, adopted, subject to confirmation by the nineteenth Assembly, amendments to the General Provisions on Ships' Routeing given at annex, for circulation to Member Governments.

2 The Committee further agreed that the amendments should enter into force on 1 January 1997, i.e. on the same date as the adopted amendments to SOLAS regulation V/8 - Routeing.

ANNEX**AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PROVISIONS
ON SHIPS' ROUTEING****INTRODUCTION**

The General Provisions of Ships' Routeing are established pursuant to regulation V(8) of the SOLAS Convention

1 OBJECTIVES

- .1 Insert new subparagraph 1.2.6, as follows:
 - "6 the organization of safe traffic flow in or around or at a safe distance from environmentally sensitive areas;"
- .2 Renumber the existing subparagraphs 1.2.6 and 1.2.7 to become subparagraphs 1.2.7 and 1.2.8.

2 DEFINITIONS

- .1 Insert after the subparagraph 2.1.1 on the definition of Routeing system a new definition for "Mandatory routeing system" as follows:
 - "2 Mandatory routeing system

A routeing system adopted by the Organization, in accordance with the requirements of regulation V/8 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, for mandatory use by all ships, certain categories of ships or ships carrying certain cargoes."
- .2 Renumber the existing subparagraphs 2.1.2 to 2.1.14 as subparagraphs 2.1.3 to 2.1.15.

3 PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**Procedures and functions of IMO**

- .1 Paragraph 3.1 should be amended to conform with SOLAS regulation V/8 as amended, paragraphs (a) and (b). The text should read as follows:
 - "3.1 IMO is recognized as the only international body responsible for establishing and adopting measures on an international level concerning ships' routeing systems for use by all ships, certain categories of ships or ships carrying certain cargoes."
- .2 Insert a new paragraph 3.5 to deal with the procedures for adopting mandatory routeing systems, as follows:

"3.5 In deciding whether or not to adopt or amend a mandatory routing system, IMO will, in addition to the provisions of paragraphs 3.2, 3.3, as appropriate, and 3.4, consider whether:

- .1 proper and sufficient justification for the establishment of a mandatory routing system has been provided by the sponsoring Government or Governments;
- .2 ports or harbours of littoral States would be adversely affected."

- .3 Insert new paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 to deal with the procedures for adopting a routing system which is intended to protect an environmentally sensitive area, as follows:

"3.6 In deciding whether or not to adopt or amend a routing system which is intended to protect the marine environment, IMO will consider whether:

- .1 the proposed routing system can reasonably be expected to significantly prevent or reduce the risk of pollution or other damage to the marine environment of the area concerned;
- .2 given the overall size of the area to be protected, or the aggregate number of environmentally sensitive areas established or identified in the geographical region concerned, the use of routing systems - particularly areas to be avoided - could have the effect of unreasonably limiting the sea area available for navigation; and
- .3 the proposed routing system meets the requirements of these General Provisions.

3.7 IMO will not adopt a proposed routing system until it is satisfied that the proposed system will not impose unnecessary constraints on shipping and is completely in accordance with the requirements of regulation V/8, paragraph (j) of the SOLAS Convention. In particular, an area to be avoided will not be adopted if it would impede the passage of ships through an international strait."

Responsibilities of Governments and recommended and compulsory practices

- .4 Renumber existing paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 to become paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9. No amendments to these paragraphs are proposed.

- .5 Delete existing paragraph 3.7.

- .6 Insert new paragraph 3.10 to read as follows:

"3.10 When establishing or amending a routing system in a particular area where two or more Governments have a common interest, they should formulate joint proposals for adoption by IMO in accordance with SOLAS chapter V, regulation 8(f)."

- .7 Renumber existing paragraph 3.8 to become paragraph 3.11 and amend this paragraph to read as follows:

"3.11 A Government, or Governments jointly, proposing a new routing system or an

amendment to an adopted system, any part which lies beyond its or their territorial sea or seas or in straits used for international navigation, should consult IMO so that such system may be adopted or amended by IMO for international use. Such Government or Governments should furnish all relevant information, in particular with regard to:

- .1 the objectives of the proposed routeing system and a demonstrated need for its establishment, including the consideration of alternative routeing measures and the reasons why the proposed routeing system is preferred;
- .2 the traffic pattern, hazards to navigation, aids to navigation and the state of hydrographic surveys;
- .3 marine environmental considerations;
- .4 the application to all ships, certain categories of ships or ships carrying certain cargoes of a routeing system or any part thereof;
- .5 any alternative routeing measure, if necessary, for all ships, certain categories of ships or ships carrying certain cargoes which may be excluded from using a routeing system or any part thereof; and
- .6 the number, edition and, where possible, the geodetic datum of the reference chart used for the delineation of the routeing system, together with copies of the reference charts listed in the description of the routeing system showing the new system or the amendments to existing systems."
- .8 Delete present paragraph 3.9.
- .9 Renumber existing paragraph 3.10 to become 3.12 and amend this paragraph to read as follows:

"3.12 Governments are recommended to ensure, as far as practicable, that drilling rigs (MODUs), exploration platforms and other similar structures are not established within the traffic lanes of routeing systems adopted by IMO or near their terminations. When the temporary positioning of a drilling rig or similar structure in a traffic lane of an adopted traffic separation scheme cannot be avoided, the system should, if necessary, be amended temporarily in accordance with the guidelines given in section 7.

In the case of mandatory routeing systems, Governments should ensure that drilling rigs (MODUs), exploration platforms and other structures obstructing navigation and not being an aid to navigation will not be established within the traffic lanes of a traffic separation scheme being part of a mandatory routeing system."
- .10 Renumber existing paragraph 3.11 to become paragraph 3.13.
- .11 Renumber existing paragraph 3.12 to become paragraph 3.14 and amend this paragraph to read as follows:

"3.14 Governments establishing routeing systems, no part of which lie beyond their territorial seas or in straits used for international navigation, are requested to design them in accordance with IMO guidelines and criteria for such systems and submit them to IMO for adoption."

- .12 Renumber present paragraph 3.13 to become paragraph 3.15 and amend in the first and second line "traffic separation scheme" to "routeing system" and amend in the third and fifth lines the word "scheme" to "system".

- .13 Renumber present paragraph 3.14 to become paragraph 3.16 and amend the references to present paragraph 3.12 and 3.13 to become 3.14 and 3.15.

- .14 Insert new paragraph 3.17 to cover the last two amended sentences of existing paragraph 3.8, as follows:

"3.17 A routeing system, when adopted by IMO, shall not be amended or suspended before consultation with and agreement by IMO, unless local conditions or the urgency of the case as described in paragraph 3.19, require that earlier action be taken. In considering the proposal, IMO shall take account of the objectives, procedures, responsibilities, methods and criteria for routeing systems as set out in these General Provisions. A mandatory routeing system, when adopted by IMO, shall not be temporarily amended or suspended except in urgent cases as described in paragraph 3.19."

- .15 Insert new paragraph 3.18 to deal with reviews of mandatory routeing systems, as follows:

"3.18 Mandatory routeing systems should be reviewed, as necessary, by the Government or Governments concerned taking into account pertinent comments, reports and observations on the routeing system. Elements under review might include variations to traffic patterns, offshore exploration and exploitation, hydrographical changes, effectiveness of aids to navigation and other developments."

- .16 Insert new paragraph 3.19 to replace existing paragraph 3.9 as follows:

"3.19 In an emergency such as might result from the unexpected blocking or obstruction of a traffic lane or any other part of a routeing system by a wreck or other hazard, immediate temporary changes in the use of the affected traffic separation scheme or other routeing system may be made by the responsible and sponsoring Government or Governments, with the objective of directing traffic flow clear of the new hazard. In such cases, every possible measure shall be taken by the Government or Governments concerned to immediately inform shipping of the hazard and of the temporary changes which have been made.

The responsible and sponsoring Government or Governments should inform IMO as soon as possible of any such changes and their justification."

- .17 Renumber existing paragraph 3.15 to become paragraph 3.20 and amend in the second line the second word "her" to "its".

- .18 Delete existing paragraph 3.16.

4 METHODS

- .1 No amendment to this section is proposed.

Include in figure 3 symbols for inshore traffic zone in the eastern ITZ.

5 PLANNING

Delete present paragraph 5.1 and renumber remaining paragraphs accordingly.

- 5.4 Delete present paragraph 5.4 and insert new paragraph 5.3 as follows:

"5.3 A Government or Governments planning, implementing and maintaining mandatory routing systems should consider whether, because of the particular circumstances in the area or parts of the area concerned, an associated monitoring service, a reporting service or VTS should be established in accordance with the guidelines adopted by IMO for such services*, as appropriate."

6 DESIGN CRITERIA

- .1 Paragraph 6.11 should be amended as follows:

"6.11 Position fixing

6.11.1 It should be possible for ships to fix their position anywhere within the limits of and in the immediate approaches to a traffic separation scheme by one or more of the following means, both by day and by night:

- .1 visual bearing of readily identifiable objects;
- .2 radar bearings and ranges of readily identifiable objects;
- .3 D/F bearings;
- .4 other radionavigation equipment suitable for use throughout the intended voyage.

* Refer to resolution MSC.43(64) - Guidelines and criteria for ship reporting systems and resolution A.578(14) Guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services.

6.11.2 The position fixing of ships may be supplemented or substituted by shore-based radar and radio direction finder systems to assist ships which have difficulty to accurately establish their position with the means prescribed under 6.11.1. Such shore-based systems should be approved by IMO before they are recognized as a position fixing system for supporting the safety of navigation in or near traffic separation schemes."

- 2 Insert after paragraph 6.15 new paragraphs 6.16 and 6.17 as follows:

"Mandatory routeing systems

6.16 The extent of a mandatory routeing system should be limited to what is essential in the interest of safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment.

6.17 It shall be possible for ships to fix their positions in relation to a mandatory routeing system by one or more of the means mentioned in paragraph 6.11 of this section."

- 3 Renumber existing paragraphs 6.16 to 6.18 to become 6.18 to 6.20. No amendments to these paragraphs are proposed.

7 **TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENTS TO TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEMES**

- 1 Amend the title of this section to read as follows:

"7 **TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS**"

- 2 After the title of this section insert the subtitle:

"Traffic separation schemes"

- 3 Insert after paragraph 7.5 a new subtitle and paragraph as follows:

"Mandatory routeing systems

7.6 Mandatory routeing systems should not be temporarily adjusted. If necessary for the safety of navigation in the area concerned, a mandatory routeing system may be entirely or partly suspended by the Contracting Government or Governments which have implemented such systems. The responsible Government or Governments should inform IMO of such a suspension and promulgate details of the suspension by all appropriate means."

8 THE USE OF ROUTEING SYSTEMS

- .1 Insert new paragraph 8.1.

"8.1 Unless stated otherwise, routeing systems are recommended for use by all ships and may be made mandatory for all ships, certain categories of ships or ships carrying certain cargoes."

- .2 Renumber paragraph 8.1 to become 8.2. No amendment to this paragraph is proposed.

- .3 Renumber paragraph 8.2 and amend to read:

"8.3 Bearing in mind the need for adequate under-keel clearance, a decision to use a routeing system must take into account the charted depth, the possibility of changes in the sea-bed since the time of the last survey, and the effects of meteorological and tidal conditions on water depths."

- .5 Renumber existing paragraphs 8.3 to 8.9 to become 8.4 to 8.10. No amendments to these paragraphs are proposed.

9 REPRESENTATION ON CHARTS

A new legend for mandatory routeing system is added to paragraph 9.2 "Use of legend on charts and notes" as follows:

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LEGEND	USE OF LEGEND
Mandatory Routeing	Not usually shown on charts but referred to in notes.

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