

## **IUMI 2003 - Update on IACS Activities**

This update covers the period from March 2002 to September 4<sup>th</sup> 2003

The following report was helpfully supplied by IACS (International Association of Classification Societies).

The Chairman Alan Gavin from LR made his main themes for the year:

- 1) Increased Transparency of IACS work both to Industry and Regulators.
- 2) Closer relations with leading Industry Associations
- 3) The ongoing technical work.

The first theme led to a web-site launch in August 2003 with the full IACS work programme displayed for the first time. Some 150 ongoing tasks were described, allowing interested parties to provide input to the chairman of the working party concerned. This enables Industry to have early warning of any anticipated rule changes.

In addition, IACS Societies are providing a new level of class information to the EU and Port State Control through Equasis, and Sirenac. This information is of critical use for charterers and insurers.

The second theme led to both an increased number of meetings with industry, and more depth of discussion as necessary. ICS, Intertanko, Intercargo, BIMCO, UGS, HKSOA, SOA, (IUMI), have all been engaged in fruitful dialogue so that IACS can develop technical solutions that are sensitive to industry concerns.

The IACS bulk carrier initiatives (the “Eight Measures”) dominated last year 2002, leading up to MSC 76 in December. These measures proposed technical changes to the rules in relation to new buildings and existing ships. In particular in relation to existing ships a detailed discussion with industry on the merits of the proposed changes was undertaken, and the industry views were reflected in the final unified requirements.

At MSC 76 the decision to mandate double hulls for new bulk carriers, and the decision to make permanent means of access for tankers and bulk carriers has led to substantial technical work for IACS.

In line with Alan Gavin's theme Industry is participating in a joint working group to provide the technical details in permanent means of access.

The work on new unified requirements for double side skin bulk carriers is still at an early stage with the first drafts of new rules anticipated by December.

The new Chairman (elected in June 03), Ugo Salerno, from RINA, asked Alan Gavin to stay on as a Vice Chairman. Next years Chairman Bernard Anne from BV is also Vice Chairman and this new arrangement will help the continuity of themes and focus at IACS.

The Council meeting in June 03 also agreed to adopt common rules (across all IACS Societies) for tankers and bulk carriers as fast as possible, and for other ship types in due course.

IACS is also at the centre of the debate on how to provide a new regulatory framework. A joint work programme with Bahamas and Greece is developing the way in which IMO will set goal based standards for new buildings and IACS will provide the detailed technical rules. This new framework will have far-reaching effects on how safety and environment protection are achieved in the shipping industry in the future.

Tore Forsmo  
4/9/03