Welcome to the second issue of Seacare News. This newsletter replaces the former Seacare Authority Quarterly Report. The aim is to provide you with an overview of decisions of Seacare Authority meetings plus information on current Authority events, initiatives and products. Further information on all the topics contained in this newsletter is available from the Seacare website at www.seacare.gov.au. The Authority would welcome your comments on, and input to, Seacare News.

Geoff Gronow
Chairperson

OHS Awards Presentation – 3 April 2003

The Sea Safe-Work Awards, which will recognise seafarers and their employers who are leading the way in occupational health and safety are less than a week away – on Thursday 3 April 2003. This is your final opportunity to register.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, will deliver the keynote address and present major awards.


OHS Conference – 3 April 2003 (afternoon)

An important aspect of the Seacare Authority’s half day OHS conference which precedes the awards presentation will be the unveiling of an OHS Statement of Commitment to be signed by maritime employers.

A draft Statement of Commitment is currently under consideration by CEO’s, Managing Directors and General Managers. The Statement aims to commit maritime employers to the OHS performance improvement targets set by the Seacare Authority for the maritime industry.

Manual Handling Guidance Note

The Seacare Authority’s new Guidance Note on Manual Handling and Body Stressing in the Australian Maritime Industry has now been circulated to all sections of the industry. It is also available on the Seacare Authority website at www.seacare.gov.au. Additional hard copies are available by emailing a request to seacare@comcare.gov.au

Summary of outcomes from Seacare Authority meeting 45 – 19 February 2003

The Authority:

- agreed to advise the Minister that the levy rate should be maintained at $53 per berth per quarter for the April to June 2003 quarter and that the current administrative arrangements for management of the safety net Fund remain in place until at least 30 June 2003;
- noted progress with preparation of a regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993 to prohibit the use of chrysotile, crocidolite and amosite asbestos in the maritime industry – to take effect from 31 December 2003;
- agreed that stage two of the Authority’s review of legislation commence at the May 2003 meeting of the Authority and noted that stage one priorities are under consideration by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations prior to it advising the Minister to enable a Bill to be prepared;
- endorsed a program and priorities for reviewing the applicability of all National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) OHS standards and codes of practice to the maritime industry; and
- agreed to the development of additional OHS performance indicators to improve reporting on OHS performance in the maritime industry.

Transfer of support for the Seacare Authority from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to Comcare

The Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment Act 2002 (WRLA Act) was passed by the Parliament on 11 December 2002. The WRLA Act amends the Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992 (Seafarers Act) and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRC or Comcare Act) to require Comcare to provide the Seacare Authority with secretarial services and staffing resources to allow the Authority to perform its functions. Seacare Authority Secretariat staff have been co-located with Comcare since 1 July 2002.

The WRLA Act commences on a date to be proclaimed (yet to be determined) or if there is no earlier proclamation, on 12 June 2003.
Table 1: Claims data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claims data at end of quarter</th>
<th>Sep 02</th>
<th>Dec 02</th>
<th>2001-2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total claims reported to AMICA</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted less property claims</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims rejected</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims pending</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted – on duty</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted – off duty</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted – other (travel, study)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: OHS Inspectorate activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Sep 02</th>
<th>Dec 02</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incidents reported to AMSA</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dangerous occurrences notified</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigations of incidents</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement notices issued</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chart 1: Injury Frequency rate

Chart 2: Employee numbers

Chart 3: Hours Worked

Seacare Contacts

Members:
Mr Geoff Gronow: Chairperson
Mr Noel Swails: Deputy Chairperson
Mr Mal Hearnden: Employer member
Cpt Warwick Norman: Employer member
Mr Paddy Crumlin: Employee member
Mr Martin Byrne: Employee member
Mr Clive Davidson: Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Deputy Members:
Mr Bob Evans: Deputy to Mr Clive Davidson
Mr Mick Doleman: Deputy to Mr Paddy Crumlin
Mr Trevor Griffett: Deputy to Cpt Warwick Norman
Mr John Flood: Deputy to Mr Mal Hearnden

Secretariat:
Rod Pickette: Manager
Leanne Yeates: Assistant Manager

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