



Australian Government

Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation
and Compensation Authority

Issue 12 – September 2006

SEACARE NEWS

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CONTACT DETAILS

Phone:
02 6275 0070
Fax:
02 6275 0067
Email:
seacare@comcare.gov.au
Website:
www.seacare.gov.au
Address:
**GPO Box 9905
CANBERRA ACT 2601**



Mr Geoff Gronow

COMMENT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

By now you will have received information on the forthcoming *Seacare Awards & Conference 2006* events to be held in Melbourne on 26 October 2006.

The Authority is extremely pleased by the response to this year's Awards and Conference from several industry employers and stakeholders and is very grateful for the generous support that has been made available by sponsors to hold these events. The number of nominations for the Seacare Awards has been strong and we acknowledge the efforts of all those who have submitted a nomination. I am also impressed by the line-up of industry and OHS figures who are contributing as Conference speakers and panellists and who undoubtedly will provide stimulating and thought-provoking presentations and discussions.

If you haven't already done so, I invite you to register for these prestigious and unique maritime industry events. Both the Conference and the Awards presentation dinner showcase the commitment of the Australian maritime industry to injury prevention and to positive outcomes for injured seafarers, as well as providing forums for interaction, learning and exchange

The Awards dinner is also an opportunity for celebrating with some outstanding entertainment and fun planned. It promises to be an evening not to be missed!

I look forward to seeing you at the *Seacare Awards & Conference 2006* in October.

Geoff Gronow ESM ED, Chairperson

Employers/Operators' Reporting Obligations

Employers/operators covered by the Seacare scheme are subject to a range of statutory reporting requirements. Employers and operators have obligations to report on various matters, currently to the Seacare Authority, the Australian Maritime Industry Compensation Agency (AMICA) and to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). These reporting obligations are described in detail in the Seacare Guide to Reporting that is available on the Seacare website.

• Reports to the Seacare Authority

Employers are required to provide employee and ship details (ESD) reports on a six-monthly basis, that is, in January and July each year. Employers are also required to report details of workers' compensation insurance arrangements within 14 days of renewing or taking out a new policy.

ESD and insurance reports must be submitted to the Authority using the facility *Seacare Online* located on the Seacare website.

• Reports to AMICA

Employers must lodge a copy of any Workers' Compensation Claim forms as well as the Employers' Determination of a Claim form as soon as these forms are completed. In each case, it is the blue coloured copy of the forms' duplicate that must be provided to AMICA.

Employers are also required to submit a Claim Update form every six months, that is, in January and July, while the claim remains active or is finalised within the previous six months.

Seafarers Safety Net Fund Levy Return forms must also be lodged with AMICA at the beginning of each quarter throughout the year, that is, in January, April, July and October.

• Reporting to AMSA

Operators covered by the *Occupational Health & Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993* must notify the OHS Inspectorate (AMSA) of any accident that causes death or serious personal injury, causes an employee to be incapacitated, or is a dangerous occurrence, within four hours (or as soon as practicable) of becoming aware of the incident. This is known as an Incident Alert. The operator must then provide an Incident Report within 72 hours of becoming aware of the incident.

Incident Alert forms and Incident Report forms are available from the Seacare website and from the AMSA website at www.amsa.gov.au/Forms/index.asp.

Failure to comply with statutory reporting obligations will cause enforcement actions to be taken which could result in penalty units and substantial fines being applied.

Seacare Authority EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

Under certain circumstances, employers and operators may seek an exemption from the application of the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992*. Section 20A of the Act provides for the Seacare Authority to grant an exemption and the Authority has established Exemption Guidelines to assist it in determining applications made. The Exemption Guidelines generally describe the conditions upon which an exemption from the application of the Act may be granted.

The Seacare Authority has amended its Exemption Guidelines so that an employer may be granted an exemption on the basis of demonstrating that it can obtain workers' compensation cover for its employees under another workers' compensation scheme, at a cost that is below that available under the Seacare scheme. The new Exemption Guidelines are available on the Seacare website.

Seacare Authority APPOINTMENTS

In August 2006, the Minister reappointed **Mr Geoff Gronow** as the Chairperson of the Seacare Authority until 31 August 2009.

Mr Martin Dolan has been appointed as Deputy Chairperson of the Authority also until 31 August 2009. Mr Dolan is Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Comcare.

Ms Teresa Hatch has been appointed as a Deputy Member. Ms Hatch is Director, Marine Operations, the Australian Shipowners Association.

SEACARE NOTICES

Seacare Notices are issued to scheme employers and published on the Seacare website.

Current notices include:

- 05/2006 - Maximum level of benefits; and
- 02/2006 - Indexation of benefits.



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and Compensation Authority

SEACARE AWARDS & CONFERENCE

2006

Thursday, 26 October 2006

Sumac,
South Wharf Road,
Melbourne, Victoria

For more information or to register online,
visit www.seacare.gov.au

Supporting Safe Work Australia Week
22-28 October 2006

SEACARE

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Australian Maritime
Safety Authority



Australian Shipowners Association



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SEA SAFE-WORK DAY 2006 ACTIVITIES

Sea Safe-Work Day 2006 was held on 28 April to coincide with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) World Day for Safety and Health at Work. The objective of the day was to promote awareness of working safely at sea.

A number of companies informed the Seacare Authority of their activities on that day, including:

- P&O Maritime Services Pty Ltd – highlighted ongoing initiatives including: *Senior Management Safety Briefings; Sea Staff Seminars; Senior Officer ISM Code and Legislation Training; and Shipboard safety education program.*
- Teekay Shipping (Australia) Pty Ltd – held onboard meetings at the start of each shift to remember seafarers lost in accidents at sea. The safety message was reinforced regarding its *Take 5, Take Time for Safety* initiative.
- Trident Shipping Services Pty Ltd – held its *Life Boat, Rescue Boat and Life Raft* program in conjunction with *Sea Safe-Work Day*.

SEACARE REGULATIONS AND CODES OF PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

The Seacare Authority and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) have prepared draft regulations and a code of practice for manual handling. The proposed regulations are based on the *National Standard for Manual Handling* [NOHSC:2005 (1990)] and the proposed code of practice will adopt the *National Code of Practiced for Manual Handling* [NOHSC:2005 (1990)], with amendments reflecting conditions inherent to the Australian maritime industry.

The regulations aim to prevent the occurrence of injury and reduce the severity of injuries by requiring employers to identify, assess and control risks associated with manual handling tasks in workplaces. The code of practice provides practical advice on meeting the requirements of the regulations.

New Permanent Impairment Guide

The Seacare Authority's second edition of its *Guide to the Assessment of the Degree of Permanent Impairment* took effect on 1 March 2006. Comcare is offering one day training courses on the operation of the new Guide for all interested parties. To date, one course has been conducted for Seacare scheme stakeholders. Further courses, or placement on scheduled courses, can be arranged upon request. Please contact the Seacare Management Group to register your interest. The new Guide is available from the Seacare website.

SEACARE CONTACTS

Members:

Mr Geoff Gronow	Chairperson
Mr Martin Dolan	Deputy Chairperson
Mr Martin Byrne	Employee Member
Mr Mick Doleman	Employee Member
Mr Peter Bremner	Employer Member
Mr Mal Hearnden	Employer Member
Mr Clive Davidson	Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Deputy Members:

Mr John Wydell	Deputy to Mr Byrne
Mr Paddy Crumlin	Deputy to Mr Doleman
Ms Teresa Hatch	Deputy to Mr Bremner
Mr Tony Caccamo	Deputy to Mr Hearnden
Mr Geoff Toomer	Deputy to Mr Davidson

Seacare Management Group:

Mr Phil Beaumont	Manager
Mr David Bonny	Assistant Manager

Publication details

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Seacare Management Group
GPO Box 9905, Canberra ACT 2601

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