

SEACARE HSR FORUM – Open, Introductions, Close

Mr Geoff Gronow, Chairperson, Seacare Authority

- I welcome participants to the Seacare Authority HSR Forum and thank you for your attendance.
- My name is Geoff Gronow and I am the Chairperson of the Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare Authority).
- This is the first (inaugural) forum to be held by the Seacare Authority for health and safety representatives (HSRs) and other onboard employees (ie seafarers) in the Seacare jurisdiction.
- The Seacare Authority greatly values this opportunity to have direct contact with HSRs and seafarers.
- Australian maritime industry operators and employers covered by the *Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993* have a primary obligation to provide a safe workplace for seafarers.
- Seafarers also have responsibility for, and an important role in, achieving positive OHS outcomes.
- I acknowledge that the maritime industry is a unique industry with many challenges that are not encountered by other industries and that these to some extent dictate how the industry deals with OHS.
- The Seacare Authority has established an *OHS Strategy* that sets performance improvement targets for the Seacare scheme and has initiated a number of actions to increase awareness of OHS and to assist the Australian maritime industry achieve injury reduction targets.
- Key actions undertaken by the Seacare Authority, in concert with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) which performs the Seacare scheme's OHS Inspectorate role, include:
 - o collecting and interpreting OHS data;
 - o developing and adopting national OHS standards and codes of practice;
 - o strategic enforcement activity to ensure strong compliance with the Act and regulations;
 - o incentive programs such as the Seacare Awards;
 - o development of OHS skills through accrediting training for HSRS;
 - o providing a range of OHS guidance materials;
 - o the Seacare Leaders Program to secure commitment from employer's senior managers to work towards improved OHS; and
 - o raising awareness of OHS through its biennial Awards and Conference events and related forums (eg OHS Forum, Fremantle, October 2007).
- The HSR Forum has been convened as part of the Seacare Authority's promotion of *Sea Safe Work Day* (25 September 2008). The aim of *Sea Safe*

Work Day is to encourage and highlight activities that involve ship crews and individual seafarers that promote safe work practices and create a safer work environment.

- The HSR Forum is an activity that the Seacare Authority also links to *Safe Work Australia Week* (19-25 October 2008), which is a nationally coordinated program supported by all Australian governments and their OHS jurisdictions and agencies. The Seacare Authority Conference event is held as part of *Safe Work Australia Week*. This year's conference is in Sydney on 16 October 2008.
- The theme of the HSR Forum *Involving HSRs and onboard employees in OHS* is closely linked the 2008 Seacare Conference theme *Best Practice in OHS*.

PROGRAM

- The HSR Forum program has three sessions. The first session provides a range of presentations aimed at helping participants understand the role of HSRs, what assistance is available, and to provide some practical advice. The second session (after morning tea / coffee) will enable three of the Seacare scheme employers to outline the value of HSRs to their organization, the safety issues faced and how HSRs and other seafarers can assist in addressing them. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of each session (time permitting).
- The afternoon workshop session (after lunch) will provide the opportunity to identify and discuss more fully issues facing HSRs and to suggest action to help them address those issues. This will involve breaking into 3 or 4 discussion groups and each group providing a report back to participants on those discussions.
- The forum will close with a brief summation and the launch of the Seacare Authority's *HSR Handbook*.
- Participants are requested to complete the evaluation by the end of the forum and forward them to the Seacare Management Section. Copies of the evaluation form are on your table.

SESSION 1

- The first presenter is **Martin Byrne**, Assistant Federal Secretary, Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers. He is a long standing Member of the Seacare Authority and has also recently been appointed to the board of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). He will talk on *HSRs as representatives of employees*.
- **Ms Clare Ellis** is a Senior OHS Adviser in the Ship Inspections Group, AMSA and will explain *How AMSA can assist HSRs*.
- **Mr Dominic Panetta** is Director, Australian Maritime Safety Consultants, a longtime provider of accredited HSR training, whose course was recently reaccredited by the Seacare Authority. The focus of his presentation is the *HSR as a safety leader*.
- **Ray Cooke** is Director, Training and Safety Consultants (TASC), which recently obtained Seacare Authority accreditation of their HSR training

course. His presentation will deal with risk management and the issuing of PINS (ie Provisional Improvement Notices).

SESSION 2

- **Allan Kneller** is Teekay Shipping's HSEQ Manager and he will talk on the *Positive aspects of HSRs*.
- **Neil Butt** HSEQ Manager and **Chris Homsey** HSEQ Coordinator will give a joint presentation on the Farstad's Offshore Sector experience with OHS.
- **Geoff Wood** is National Manager for Industrial Relations and Human Resources in TT Line and will provide another Blue Water sector perspective, but a passenger boat operator.

WORKSHOP

- The aim of the workshop is to allow participants to focus on what OHS issues and challenges are faced by HSRs and to come up with strategies to assist them.
- Participants are to break into four groups (about 10 in each). Each group will have a person to lead the discussion.
- One person in each group should record the key points of their group's discussion. Another person should report back to all participants.
- About 40 minutes is allocated for group discussions on the following:
 1. What are the major issues and challenges faced by HSRs and seafarers in achieving better OHS outcomes?
 2. What strategies should be adopted to assist HSRs and seafarers with the issues identified?
 3. How can the Seacare Authority best assist HSRs and seafarers?
- 10 minutes is allocated for each group to report on their discussions.
- Further discussion might follow after the group reports.

CLOSE

HSR HANDBOOK

- It is now my pleasure to launch the Seacare Authority's publication, which is aimed at assisting HSRs understand their role and responsibilities. The *HSR Handbook*, provides guidance and information to HSRs (and others) on:
 - o the Seacare legislative framework
 - o OHS responsibilities in the Seacare jurisdiction
 - o workplace OHS arrangements
 - o powers and responsibilities of HSRs
 - o the powers of the OHS Inspectorate.
- The handbook also provides:
 - o a number of scenarios and related flowcharts

- a comprehensive section on risk management (sourced from Comcare's recently approved OHS Code of Practice 2008)
- reference information (such as relevant legislation, guidance and standards) and contact information
- blank and completed provisional improvement notices (PIN).
- This publication will be distributed to all HSRs and key operator / employer personnel, and employer and employee representatives. HSR training course providers will be provided with copies for distribution to HSRs undertaking their training course.
- A **shorter version** has also been produced, which condenses the content of the full version of the handbook and is more suitable for general distribution (such as to all onboard employees). Both versions will be available via the Authority's website.
- Only a limited number of copies of both publications are available here today. There should be at least sufficient for all participants. If you would like more copies, please indicate this on your **evaluation form** or contact the Seacare Management Section.

2008 SEACARE AWARDS & CONFERENCE

- Before formally closing this forum, I would like to remind participants that the 2008 Seacare Awards & Conference will be held in Sydney on 16 October 2008. I strongly recommend your attendance, if you have not already indicated that you are attending. Copies of the program and registration form have been placed on the tables.

THANKS

- I would now like to thank all the presenters and participants at this forum for their generous contribution. I hope that you will all have gained something from the forum and that you share your experience with your colleagues, be they seafarers, OHS/HR personnel, trainers, unionists etc.
- I would also like to thank the Authority's working group for the development of the program for this event:
 - Brad Groves – Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA);
 - Martin Byrne – Australian Institute of Marine & Power Engineers (AIMPE);
 - Lee Azfar – Australian Shipowners Association (ASA); and
 - David Bonny – Seacare Management Section (SMS) of Comcare.
- Finally, participants are reminded that the Seacare Authority would welcome your comments on this forum and that one way this can be done is by completing the evaluation forms and return it to the Seacare Management Section.