



Australian Government

Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation
and Compensation Authority

SEACARE NEWS

Issue 16 – April 2008

What's In This Issue

Deputy Prime Minister
Comments on Seacare

Levy Reduction

Seacare Awards & Conference
2008

OHS Reporting Obligations

AMSA Reporting
Arrangements

OHS Inspectorate Activities

Revised Coverage Guide

HSR Handbook

Seacare Authority Meeting in
Western Australia

Seacare Notices

Seacare Authority
Appointments

Chairperson's Comments



Recently the Commonwealth Government announced its commitment to work cooperatively with states and territories to harmonise occupational health and safety laws. A review of national OHS arrangements is in train with the objective of developing model OHS legislation for adoption by each jurisdiction. The Seacare scheme is necessarily involved in these processes and looks forward

to contributing as appropriate for the industry and working towards the national harmonisation of OHS.

Current scheme data examined by the Seacare Authority indicate that the number of seafarers and hours worked continue to increase. The scheme is also maintaining its good performance in terms of falling incidence of injury and frequency of injury rates. With the increasing level of activity across the maritime sector it is particularly important to have especially high regard for OHS requirements and prevention strategies.

This year the Seacare Authority will once again be holding its highly successful *Seacare Awards & Conference* programs. The Conference and Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, 16 October 2008 in Sydney.

As in the past, the *Seacare Awards & Conference* will provide a unique opportunity for all parties involved in the Seacare scheme, and in the Australian maritime industry generally, to come together to celebrate and learn from the best possible initiatives and achievements in the scheme.

Shortly you will be receiving detailed information about the *Seacare Awards & Conference 2008*. I encourage you to mark 16 October in your diaries for attendance at Seacare's showcase events, to nominate for *Seacare Awards*, and to consider being an event sponsor.

Geoff Gronow ESM ED
Chairperson
Seacare Authority

Deputy Prime Minister Comments on Seacare



On 9 April 2008, the Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon Julia Gillard MP, addressed the National Conference of the Maritime Union of Australia. Ms Gillard recognised the contribution of Australia's maritime industries and outlined the Government's

approach to addressing the concerns of the industry. She said that maritime workers must be protected from work-related dangers and that the maritime industry needs a properly regulated OHS system. The Government has recently committed to harmonising OHS regulations nationwide and is reviewing the optimal structure and content of model OHS legislation to apply nationally.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that *"...if people are injured, we have to ensure Seacare is up to the job of rehabilitating and compensating them.*

To ensure this is the case, I have asked my Department for a thorough briefing to determine whether a major review of the Seacare Scheme is required.

If it is, it will be conducted in consultation with all the affected parties.

Let me reassure you that workers' compensation and occupational health and safety coverage under Seacare will remain under federal laws."

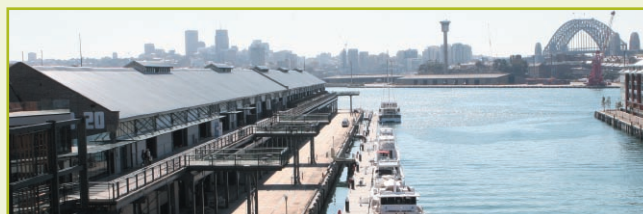
Levy Reduction

On the recommendation of the Seacare Authority, the rate of levy payable by scheme employers for the *Seafarers Safety Net Fund* has been reduced to \$15 per seafarer berth per quarter. The Deputy Prime Minister approved the reduction to take effect from 1 April 2008.

The levy was introduced in 2002 at the rate of \$53 and reduced in April 2006 to \$35 prior to this second levy rate reduction.

Seacare Awards & Conference 2008

The *Seacare Awards & Conference 2008* will be held on 16 October 2008 in Sydney.



The venue for these events is Doltone House, a unique heritage building situated on the newly restored finger wharf at the Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont Point. It boasts views to the Harbour Bridge, city skyline and Darling Harbour precinct.

The *Seacare Awards* recognise and acknowledge the best positive initiatives by employers, operators, seafarers and others who are leading the way in OHS and rehabilitation. The *Seacare Awards* are aligned with the national *Safe Work Australia Awards* and will be announced at the special Presentation Dinner on 16 October 2008. The Master of Ceremonies for this year's *Seacare Awards Dinner* is one of Australia's sharpest comics, Peter Berner.

The *Seacare Conference*, preceding the Awards Dinner, will focus on the theme of *Best Practice OHS in the Maritime Industry*. Presentations will blend expertise, experience and inspiration. Featured speakers include Professor Dennis Else, OHS Advisor to the Global Board of Brookfield Multiplex and past Chairman of the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission, and Ms Kay Cottee AO, Australian of the Year 1988 and the first woman to sail solo, unassisted and non-stop round the world.

Nomination forms for *Seacare Awards 2008*, as well as further detail on the Awards and Conference events, including an invitation to sponsors, will be posted to scheme stakeholders shortly.

More information on the *Seacare Awards & Conference 2008* is available on the Seacare website: www.seacare.gov.au

OHS Reporting Obligations

Seacare scheme employers and operators must ensure that every notifiable OHS incident and dangerous occurrence is reported appropriately. Under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993*, employers and operators are required to routinely forward *Incident Alert* and *Incident Report* forms to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in the event of a reportable incident or occurrence. Employers and operators should provide the Masters of vessels with clear instructions regarding these important reporting obligations.

An OHS incident is defined as an accident that causes:

- the death of, or serious personal injury to, any person; or

- an employee to be incapacitated from work for a period of five successive days or more.

A dangerous occurrence is an occurrence that *could* have caused:

- the death of, or serious personal injury to, any person; or
- the incapacity of an employee for five or more successive working days.

Further information on reporting obligations is available from the Seacare website www.seacare.gov.au and the AMSA website www.amsa.gov.au (see “Shipping Incident Reporting” button on AMSA homepage).

AMSA Reporting Arrangements

Incident Reports are made using form - *AMSA 18 / Seacare 06* and form - *AMSA 19 / Seacare 07*. Form *AMSA 18 / Seacare 06* is an Incident Alert designed to inform the authorities that an incident has occurred. However, this will not include all the information that will eventually be required. This Alert must be submitted by the Master within four hours of the incident occurring and may be sent by:

Fax to: **+61 2 6230 6868** or **1800 622 153**
(free fax within Australia), or

Email to: **reports@amsa.gov.au**

Please note the new fax number above for Incident Reports, as detailed in Marine Notice 08/2008.

If additional information is required in respect of the submission of this form the Rescue Coordination Centre can be contacted on **1800 021 098** and they will provide advice.

To provide the details of the incident a “detailed report” (*AMSA 19 / Seacare 07*) is to be forwarded to AMSA, Canberra within 72 hours of submission of the Incident Alert (*AMSA 18 / Seacare 06*). The details for faxing or emailing Incidents Reports (*AMSA 19 / Seacare 07*) are:

Fax to: **+61 2 6279 5058**

Email to: **reports@amsa.gov.au**

Website: **www.amsa.gov.au**

OHS Inspectorate Activities

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is the OHS Inspectorate for the Seacare scheme and works with the Seacare Authority to effectively regulate OHS and to promote injury prevention.

AMSA is continuing to review its management of OHS incident reporting and recording with the aim of improving identification of possible actions and to facilitate more effective follow up activity.

The Inspectorate is highly visible to the shipping industry and as such is leading by example. Instructions for OHS Inspectors and new procedures surrounding the safety of Inspectors have been developed. These encompass updated instructions for working in environments such as terminals and around shipping containers, inspection of life boats, and other high risk tasks that Inspectors undertake.

The Inspectorate is also updating its inspection regime for ships under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993*. The regime is aimed at education as well as identifying unsafe arrangements and practices.

Revised Coverage Guide

The Seacare Authority has revised its guidance notes on coverage under the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992*. The revised Coverage Guide is available on the Seacare website: www.seacare.gov.au

HSR Handbook

The Seacare Authority is developing a handbook to assist Health & Safety Representatives (HSRs) understand their roles and responsibilities under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993*. The handbook is intended to serve as a practical resource for HSRs in exercising their powers. A range of Seacare scheme stakeholders are being consulted in the preparation of the handbook including HSRs, employers and HSR trainers. The draft HSR handbook is available from the Seacare Management Section and comments are welcome.

Seacare Authority Meeting in Western Australia

The next meeting of the Seacare Authority will be held in Fremantle, WA. Stakeholders and interested parties are invited to meet with the Chairperson and Members of the Authority on 21-22 May 2008. Please contact the Seacare Management Section on (02) 6275 0082 to make an appointment.

Seacare Notices

Seacare Notices are issued to scheme employers and published on the Seacare website. Current notices include:

- 02/2008 - Indexation of Compensation Benefits
- 01/2008 - Maximum Level of Benefits

Seacare Authority Appointments

In January 2008, Mr Mick Doleman (MUA) was reappointed as a Member of the Authority representing employees for a period of three years. Mr Jamie Newlyn (MUA) was appointed as Mr Doleman's Deputy.

In April 2008, Mr Mal Hearnden (Swire Pacific Offshore) was reappointed as a Member of the Authority representing employers for a period of three years. Mr Tony Caccamo (Australian Mines and Metals Association) was also reappointed as Mr Hearnden's Deputy.

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 Graham Peachey	CEO, Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Deputy Members

Mr John Wydell	Deputy to Mr Byrne
Mr Jamie Newlyn	Deputy to Mr Doleman
Ms Teresa Hatch	Deputy to Mr Bremner
Mr Tony Caccamo	Deputy to Mr Hearnden
Mr Brad Groves	Deputy to Mr Peachey

Seacare Management Section

Mr Phil Beaumont	Director
Mr David Bonny	Assistant Director

Contact details

Phone	(02) 6275 0070
Fax	(02) 6275 0067
Email	seacare@comcare.gov.au
Website	www.seacare.gov.au
Postal address	GPO Box 9905 Canberra ACT 2601

Publication Details

© Commonwealth of Australia 2007
Seacare News Issue #16

ISSN 1835-0208 Print

ISSN 1835-0216 Online

Seacare Management Section
GPO Box 9905, Canberra ACT 2601

Disclaimer

This publication is intended to provide only a summary and general overview of matters of interest. It is not intended to be comprehensive and is not a substitute for independent professional advice. Please contact an appropriate qualified professional person before relying on the contents of this publication.