



SEACARE AUTHORITY QUARTERLY REPORT

Report 02/2000

Outcomes of Seacare Authority Meeting 32 of 24 August 2000

As part of its commitment to improve communication with industry and stakeholders, the Seacare Authority agreed at its May 2000 meeting to produce a short report to the industry and stakeholders after each meeting. The main purpose is to keep the industry and interested parties informed of decisions taken by the Authority. This is the second report. We hope you find it useful and informative. Comments are welcome by e-mail to seacare@dewrsb.gov.au.

Rehabilitation/return-to-work

The Authority agreed to conduct two symposia on rehabilitation and return to work – one in Melbourne in November 2000 and one in Perth (date to be determined), to be followed by a series of port level industry briefings early in 2001 on the outcomes of the symposia.

The purpose of the symposia is to bring together expertise both within and outside the industry to share current practices and new developments with a view to conveying successful approaches and new ideas with practitioners at the enterprise level through a series of port level briefings. The overall objective is to significantly improve return to work outcomes in the industry.

Watch the website www.seacare.gov.au for information on the first symposium.

Occupational health and safety performance indicators for the shipping industry

The Authority agreed to proceed with development of safety performance indicators for the shipping industry. Methodology drawn from work undertaken by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission will be applied to the process. In the first instance, industry representatives will be called together to help identify relevant indicators. The indicators emerging from this process will be for application at the enterprise level and will complement Seacare scheme outcome indicators being prepared for inclusion in the 3rd national Comparative Performance Monitoring report currently being compiled by the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business for consideration of Workplace Relations Ministers Council.

Comparative Performance Monitoring project

The Authority agreed to give priority to preparation of Seacare data for inclusion against all performance indicators in the 3rd CPM report. Seacare has engaged an actuarial consultant to work with Seacare insurers to collect accurate and comprehensive data on premiums and scheme liabilities.

Most other data is obtained from the claims database managed by the Australian Maritime Industry Compensation Agency.

Electronic form lodgement

The Authority authorised a feasibility study on implementation of an electronic form lodgement system for Seacare scheme forms. This would also assist conformance with the Commonwealth Government's online action strategy.

The forms that are subject to initial investigation are: (i) *Exemption form*; (ii) *Report on Employee and Ship Details*; (iii) *Insurance Arrangements*. The Authority will be discussing with AMICA electronic lodgement of the *Claim Update Report* form and in time, the *Claim for Compensation/Rehabilitation* form.

Investigation of mismatch between claims data and incident reports

The Authority agreed on a process to commence a case study analysis of the mismatch between claims data provided to AMICA and incident data reported to AMSA. It is expected that the analysis will result in a report to the Authority at its November meeting.

Website

The Authority agreed to a new Seacare website design which is expected to be implemented in October 2000. The new design will be easier to navigate and data/information/forms will be easier to access.

Navigation Act amendments

A report was provided to the Authority on progress in implementing a decision of Ministers' to amend the *Navigation Act 1912* to achieve new jurisdictional responsibility for vessel safety regulation. The decision also involves alignment of the Seafarers and OH&S(MI) Acts to an amended Navigation Act. The meeting was informed that a draft Bill has been developed and is likely to be introduced into the Parliament by Minister Anderson in the near future (it was introduced on 31 August 2000). Copies of the Bill will be circulated to key stakeholders after introduction into the Parliament. The Seacare Authority is currently discussing with stakeholders the implications for coverage under the Seafarers and OH&S(MI) Acts from the move to cover vessels of 500 gross tonnage and above.

Service charter

A Service Charter which outlines the service standards clients can expect from the Authority was approved. It will be available on the website from late September 2000.

Brochures

The Authority approved the text of brochures 3 and 4 in the new series – one on rehabilitation and return to work, and the other on entitlements under the Seafarers Act. These will be published by October and will be posted on the Seacare website.

Next Seacare Authority meeting

The next meeting of the Authority will take place in Melbourne on Tuesday 21 November 2000. If you wish that a matter be placed on the agenda for discussion, please forward your item to the Seacare Authority Secretariat by e-mail at seacare@dewrsb.gov.au or telephone on (02) 6121 7120.

Improving Communication in the Industry

We encourage you to replicate this Report in part or in full in your organisation's newsletter or journal. No permission is required to publish but it would be appropriate to acknowledge the source.

Another way in which you can ensure your organisation improves communication is by creating a direct link between your website and the Authority's website. Some organisations have already done so.

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