



SEACARE AUTHORITY QUARTERLY REPORT

Report 03/2000

Outcomes of Seacare Authority Meeting 33 of 21 November 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 Symposium

The Authority conducted a highly successful symposium on rehabilitation and return to work in the Australian shipping industry in Melbourne on 20 November 2000. Over 65 people attended with some 40% representing employers.

The symposium was opened by the Hon Peter Reith, MP, Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business (speech available on the Internet at the following address <http://www.dewrsb.gov.au/ministers/mediacentre/detail.asp?show=1271&creator=Reith>).

Following the symposium, the Seacare Authority has agreed to:

- sponsor a smaller scale symposium or roundtable in Fremantle early in 2001 (likely date being Wednesday 7 March) with a focus on companies servicing the offshore oil and gas sector;

- widely circulate the outcomes of the Melbourne symposium as a means of better informing the industry on this important aspect of the Seacare scheme;

- commence development of an information manual on good practice rehabilitation strategies, aimed particularly at smaller companies with limited resources;

- issue a new brochure on rehabilitation and return to work;

- identify ways to involve medical providers and the insurance industry in improvement strategies being promoted by the Authority; and

- include leading edge material on rehabilitation and return to work on the Authority's website, to improve the accessibility of such information.

Watch the website www.seacare.gov.au for information on the Fremantle mini-symposium and for further information on rehabilitation and return to work.

Occupational health and safety performance indicators for the shipping industry

The Authority agreed to a program of action to enable work to proceed on development of safety performance indicators for the shipping industry. A Safety Performance Indicators (Shipping Industry) Committee has been reformed. It will be convened by David Parmeter, Director Industrial Relations, Australian Shipowners Association. Other members include Derrice Dillon Mermaid Marine, Paddy Crumlin MUA and Graham Mapplebeck AMSA. All sectors represented are entitled to coopt another member to the Committee. Methodology drawn from work undertaken by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission will be applied to the process, and an officer from NOHSC will assist the Committee.

The agreed work program envisages that industry representatives will be called together to help identify relevant indicators, commencing in February 2001. 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.

Electronic form lodgement

The Authority noted that work has commenced on implementation of an electronic form lodgement system for Seacare scheme forms, consistent 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. Employers will soon receive advice on electronic lodgement of the Insurance Arrangements form, which is due before end December 2000.

Investigation of mismatch between claims data and incident reports

The Authority noted that work has commenced on 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 final report to the Authority at its February 2001 meeting.

Website

The Authority noted that the new Seacare website design is slightly behind schedule but should be launched in December 2000. The new design will be easier to navigate and data/information/forms will be easier to access.

Maritime Legislation Amendment Bill 2000 (the 500 GT Bill)

The Authority was informed that the Bill had been introduced into the Parliament but that passage was now unlikely this year. The most likely commencement date, if the Bill is passed, is 1 July 2001. The Authority, the Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business, the Department of Transport and Regional Services, and AMSA are still consulting on the guidelines that AMSA will use in assessing applications for a declaration under the proposed new opt-out provisions (proposed new Section 8AC). The Authority was informed that the Bill clarifies that the Seafarers and OHS(MI) Acts will no longer apply to Australian fishing vessels and fishing fleet support vessels (unless proceeding on an overseas voyage).

Navigation Act amendments

The Authority agreed to write to the Department of Transport and Regional Services and to AMSA to identify those proposals in the final report which will need to be negotiated with the Seacare Authority.

Brochures

The Authority noted that two new brochures will be published in December 2000 and will be posted on the Seacare website.

Next Seacare Authority meeting

The next meeting of the Authority will take place in Fremantle on Tuesday 6 March 2001. 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 by 13 February 2001.

Revised Exemption Package

The Authority agreed to a new application form and revised information package for applicants seeking an exemption under the Seafarers Act. It is available on the website.

Seacare Authority statistics and performance reports

The Authority adopted a new set of standing reports for consideration each meeting, aimed at keeping a closer watch on scheme performance.

The following Tables have been reproduced from those presented to meeting 33.

Table 1: Seafarers Act - Employee numbers and hours worked - 2000-01

	Sept	Dec	Mar	Jun	YTD	Annual estimate	Previous year
Employees	2,715				2,715	2,715	2,800
Hours worked	1,952,383				1,952,383	7,809,532	5,897,548

Source: Seacare Authority

Table 2: Seafarers Act - Compensation claims data - 2000-01

Claims data at end of each quarter	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	YTD	Annual estimate*	Previous year*
Total claims reported to AMICA		42			42	168	177
Claims accepted		28			28	112	151
Claims rejected		1			1	4	18
Claims pending		13			13	52	8
Claims accepted - on duty		23			23	92	134
Claims accepted - off duty		4			4	16	7
Claims accepted - other (travel, study)		1			1	4	10
Active or continuing claims		81			81	NA	53
Claims of 5 or more days duration		NA	NA		NA	NA	131

Source: AMICA, *Seacare Authority

Table 3: OH&S incident report

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	YTD	Annual estimate*	Previous year*
Incidents reported to AMSA	15				15	60	80
Dangerous occurrences notified	1				1	4	8
Investigations of incidents	4				4	16	23
Prohibition notices issued	NA	NA	NA		0		3
Improvement notices issued	NA	NA	NA		0		7
Prosecutions commenced	NA	NA	NA		0		0
Prosecutions concluded	NA	NA	NA		0		1

Source: AMSA, *Seacare Authority

NOTE:

Prohibition notices, Improvement notices and Prosecutions to be provided annually

Table 4: Incidence of injuries (number of accepted claims per 1,000 employees/number of claims of 5 or more days duration per 1,000 employees)

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	YTD	Previous year
Total claims accepted	28				28	151
Claims of 5 days or more	NA		NA		0	131
Employees	2,715				2,715	2,800
Incidence rate (accepted claims)	41.3				41.3	53.9
Incidence rate (5 days or more)	NA		NA		0	46.8

Source: AMICA, Seacare Authority, CPM

NOTE:

Information relating to claims of 5 days or more to be provided 6 monthly

The Incidence rate (accepted claims) is calculated using an estimate of the annual number of accepted claims.

Table 5: Frequency of injuries (number of accepted claims per 1M hours worked/number of claims of 5 or more days duration per 1M hours worked)

	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	YTD	Previous year
Total claims accepted	28				28	151
Hours worked (M)	1.95				1.95	5.9
Claims of 5 days or more	NA		NA		0	131
Employees	2,715				2,715	2,800
Frequency rate (accepted claims)	14.36				14.36	25.7
Frequency rate (5 days or more)	NA		NA		0	22.2

Source: AMICA, Seacare Authority, CPM

NOTE:

Information relating to claims of 5 days or more to be provided 6 monthly

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.

HOW TO CONTACT THE SEACARE AUTHORITY

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