



It has been an exciting quarter for the Seacare Authority; in particular, the success of the inaugural OHS Awards and OHS Conference highlighted the commitment and continuing improvement in OHS by the maritime industry. Another significant event was the briefing to the WA maritime industry sector on the proposed regulation prohibiting asbestos, and the outcomes of the OHS Conference. Following the positive response we received in WA similar briefings are being organised for Victoria and New South Wales in August and November respectively. Finally we welcome to the Seacare Authority Mr John Wydell from the Australian Maritime Officers Union as deputy member to Mr Martin Byrne.

Rod Pickette  
Manager, Seacare

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## OHS Awards

More than 100 members of the Australian maritime industry gathered at the Melbourne Aquarium on 3 April 2003 for the inaugural Seacare Authority Sea Safe-Work Awards. The awards were presented by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP. All maritime industry employers have been sent a video of the awards event.

Congratulations to the following winners:

**Best Solution to a Major OHS Risk:** Teekay Shipping (Australia) Team Gemini, for their Lockout System.

**Best OHS Training Program:** P&O Maritime Services for Roger's Story.

**Offshore Employer OHS Achievement Award:** Mermaid Marine Australia

**Large Employer OHS Achievement Award:** Teekay Shipping (Australia), Team Gemini.

**Small Employer OHS Achievement Award:** Mermaid Marine Australia.

Thank you to everyone who supported the awards, in particular, thanks to the following sponsors: Comcare; National Occupational Health and Safety Commission; P&O Maritime Services; Australian Shipowners Association; Intercontinental Ship Management; and the Australian Maritime College.

## Key Outcomes of the Seacare Authority Meeting 46 – 21 May 2003

The Authority:

- agreed to advise the Minister that the levy rate for the Seafarers Safety Net Fund should be maintained for the Jul - Sept 03 quarter at \$53 per berth with a further review at its next meeting in August 2003;
- agreed to run the next Sea Safe-Work Awards in the second half of 2004; and
- agreed to seek approval for the introduction of a Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos to complement the prohibition on the use of asbestos, due to commence on 1 January 2004.

## OHS Conference

Sixty members of the maritime industry attended the OHS Conference held on the afternoon preceding the Sea Safe-Work Awards. Many of the issues identified by the panel session and round table discussions have been recommended for consideration by the Authority, such as:

- Seacare Authority facilitation of an OHS practitioners network;
- identification and publication of national and international OHS performance benchmarks;
- inclusion of OHS practical guidance on the Seacare website;
- facilitation and development of industry wide OHS training materials;
- assist the industry address major hazards;
- review conformance with the Authority's OHS Employer Statement of Commitment; and
- establish direct communication with shipboard OHS representatives and committees.

## Asbestos Prohibition Regulation

A regulation prohibiting chrysotile and other forms of asbestos is currently being drafted. This regulation will prohibit the use of chrysotile and other forms of asbestos from 31 Dec 2003. It will not cover the removal and disposal of asbestos or chrysotile asbestos that is *in situ* at the time the prohibition takes effect. More information on the prohibition will be circulated.

## Seafarers Safety Net Fund - new levy collection procedures from 1 July 2003

Employers should note that from 1 July 2003 levy should be paid:

- (i) **by cheque** made out to the **Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority** to be sent to AMICA; or
- (ii) **by direct credit** to **Comcare Official Administered Receipts Account - Seacare Authority**. The new account number is: **BSB 062987 Account No.10003681**.

## Transfer of Seacare Authority Support Function

Operational support for the Seacare Authority transferred from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to Comcare on 11 June 2003. The Authority will continue to be autonomous.

Please note the Seacare Authority contact details below which have been phased in over the past 12 months.

## New Notices

| Notice No. | Date of Effect | Subject                         |
|------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 02/2003    | 22/5/03        | Maximum Level of Benefits       |
| 03/2003    | 01/7/03        | Indexation-Increase in Benefits |

All Seacare notices are available from the Seacare website at

<https://www.seacare.gov.au/publications/notices/noticesInformation.htm>

## Seacare Authority statistics and performance reports 2003 - 2003

**Table 1: Claims data**

| Claims data at end of quarter           | 2001-2002 | Sep 02   | Dec 02   | Mar 03  | YTD     |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Total claims reported to AMICA          | 164       | 41       | 36       | 42      | 119     |
| Claims accepted                         | 147       | 31       | 30       | 32      | 93      |
| Claims accepted less property claims    | 146       | 30       | 30       | 32      | 92      |
| Claims rejected                         | 12        | 5        | 2        | 2       | 9       |
| Claims pending                          | 5         | 5        | 4        | 8       | 17      |
| Claims accepted – on duty               | 133       | 27       | 4        | 29      | 60      |
| Claims accepted – off duty              | 10        | 1        | 3        | 3       | 7       |
| Claims accepted – other (travel, study) | 4         | 2        | 3        | 0       | 5       |
| Employee Numbers                        | 3152      | 2900*    | 2589*    | 3260    | 2916    |
| Hours Worked                            | 6529685   | 1368228* | 1367156* | 1763333 | 5998289 |

Source: AMICA, Seacare Authority

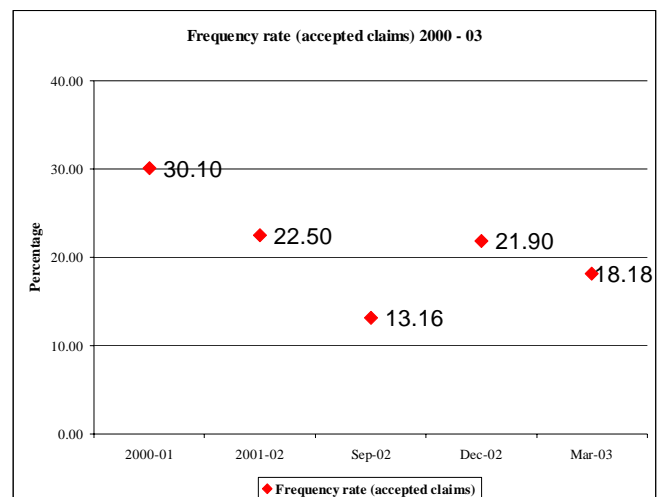
\* Data being reviewed

**Table 2: OHS Inspectorate activity**

|                                | 2001-02 | Sep 02 | Dec 02 | Mar 03 | YTD |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| Incidents reported to AMSA     | 56      | 25     | 19     | 15     | 59  |
| Dangerous occurrences notified | 5       | 13     | 2      | 3      | 18  |
| Investigations of incidents    | 14      | 0      | 1      | 4      | 5   |
| Improvement notices issued     | 3       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0   |
| Prohibition notices issued     | 2       |        | 1      | 1      | 2   |

Source: AMSA, Seacare Authority

**Chart 1: Injury Frequency rate**



Source: AMICA, Seacare Authority

Note: The hours worked is based on 12 hours (trading fleet) & 14 hours (offshore).

## Seacare Contacts

### Members:

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr Geoff Gronow     | Chairperson                          |
| Mr Noel Swails      | Deputy Chairperson                   |
| Capt Warwick Norman | Employer member                      |
| Mr Mal Hearnden     | Employer member                      |
| Mr Paddy Crumlin    | Employee member                      |
| Mr Martin Byrne     | Employee member                      |
| Mr Clive Davidson   | Australian Maritime Safety Authority |

### Deputy Members

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr Bob Evans       | Deputy to Mr Clive Davidson   |
| Mr Mick Doleman    | Deputy to Mr Paddy Crumlin    |
| Mr Trevor Griffett | Deputy to Capt Warwick Norman |
| Mr John Flood      | Deputy to Mr Mal Hearnden     |
| Mr John Wydell     | Deputy to Mr Martin Byrne     |

### Seacare Management Group:

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Rod Pickette  | Manager, Seacare           |
| Leanne Yeates | Assistant Manager, Seacare |

### Contact details:

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