Welcome to the first issue of the Seacare Newsletter. This newsletter replaces the existing Seacare Authority Quarterly Reports. The aim is to provide you with an overview of the recent Seacare Authority meetings plus information on current Authority events, activities and products. Further information on all the topics contained in this newsletter is available from the Seacare website at www.seacare.gov.au.

Geoff Gronow
Chairperson

OHS Awards

The Sea Safe- Work Awards will recognise seafarers and their employers who are leading the way in occupational health and safety and rehabilitation. **Nominations will be accepted until Friday 10 January 03.** Organisations are welcome to nominate for one or more of the following award categories:

1. Offshore Employer – OHS Achievement Award
2. Small Employer – OHS Achievement Award
3. Large Employer – OHS Achievement Award
4. Health and Safety Committee – Achievement Award
5. Health and Safety Committee – Achievement Award
6. Best Solution to a Major OHS Risk
7. Best Rehabilitation and Return to Work Programme
8. Best OHS Training Programme

The Awards function will be hosted in Melbourne at a gala ceremony and dinner on Thursday 3 April 2003. A brochure with more information about the Awards has been sent to your organisation.

Please note that the date of the Awards is now **3 April 2003**, not 8 April as printed in the brochure.


Notice 06/2002 Maximum Level of Benefits

Subsection 31(7) of the Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992 provides for a ceiling on weekly incapacity payments after the first 45 weeks. This ceiling is 150% of the Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings for Full Time Adults (AWOTEFA). The AWOTEFA is updated quarterly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.


Annual Report


Manual Handling Guidance Note

In the 2001-02 financial year, body stressing injuries contributed to approximately 43% of the total compensable injuries in the Seafarers scheme (source: AMICA).

Like many other industries, injuries from manual handling represent a large proportion of all body stressing claims in the maritime industry. However, in the maritime industry the number of body stressing injuries occurring as a result of factors, other than handling of objects, also contributes to a large proportion of workers’ compensation claims.

The Seacare Authority has endorsed a new **Guidance Note on Manual Handling and Body Stressing in the Australian maritime industry**. This Guidance Note is designed to provide practical advice on identifying manual handling hazards, assessing the risks associated with those hazards and assisting to find practical ways to control the risks.

The Guidance Note will be available in hard copy and from the Seacare website in January 2003.

Outcomes of the Seacare Authority Meeting 44 – 19 November 2002

The Authority:

- agreed to advise the Minister that the levy rate should be maintained for the Jan-Mar 03 quarter but that the Authority would further consider the levy rate at its February 2003 meeting and advise the Minister of any adjustment needed for the April-June 03 quarter;

- agreed to prepare a regulation to prohibit the use of chrysotile, crocidolite and amosite asbestos in the maritime industry; and

- noted that the Chairperson forwarded a letter, accompanied by a schedule of legislative proposals, to the Minister, advising on the Authority’s stage one legislative amendment priorities.
Table 1: Claims data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claims data at end of quarter</th>
<th>Sep 02</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total claims reported to AMICA</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted less property claims</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims rejected</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims pending</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted – on duty</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted – off duty</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims accepted – other (travel, study)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AMICA, Seacare Authority

Table 2: OHS Inspectorate activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sep 02</th>
<th>2000-01</th>
<th>2001-02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incidents reported to AMSA</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dangerous occurrences notified</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigations of incidents</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement notices issued</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Seacare Authority

Chart 1: Injury Frequency rate

![Chart 1: Injury Frequency rate](image)

Chart 2: Employee numbers

![Chart 2: Employee numbers](image)

Chart 3: Hours Worked

![Chart 3: Hours Worked](image)

Source: Seacare Authority

Seacare Contacts

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

Deputy Members:
- Mr Bob Evans - Deputy to Mr Clive Davidson
- Mr Mick Doleman - Deputy to Mr Paddy Crumlin
- Mr David Parmeter - Deputy to Capt Warwick Norman
- Mr John Flood - Deputy to Mr Mal Hearnden

Secretariat:
- Rod Pickette - Manager
- Leanne Yeates - Assistant Manager

Contact details:
- Phone: (02) 6275 0070
- Fax: (02) 6275 0067
- Email: seacare@comcare.gov.au
- Website: [www.seacare.gov.au](http://www.seacare.gov.au)
- Address: GPO Box 9905
  - CANBERRA ACT 2601