



Governing Body

310th Session, Geneva, March 2011

GB.310/STM/3/4

Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues

STM

FOR DECISION

THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Sectoral activities 2010–11

Revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo transport units (1997 edition)

Overview

Issue covered

The paper provides additional information on the proposal for the revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo transport units (1997 edition) made in GB.310/STM/1/1. It proposes the creation of a joint IMO/ILO/UNECE working group and modalities for ILO participation therein.

Policy implications

None at this time. Should the Governing Body agree to the participation of the ILO in the revision of the Guidelines, the revised Guidelines will be presented to the Governing Body for its endorsement prior to their publication.

Legal implications

None at this time.

Financial implications

This item of work is included in the proposals for 2012–13 submitted in GB.310/STM/1/1.

Decision required

Paragraph 8.

References to other Governing Body documents and ILO instruments

GB.268/STM/6/1.

1. The IMO, following a relevant decision by its Maritime Safety Committee, in cooperation with the UNECE and ILO, published in 1997 the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo transport units (1997 edition). These Guidelines were endorsed by the Governing Body at its 268th Session (March 1997).
2. Following consultations between the secretariats of the ILO, IMO and UNECE, the three organizations have concluded that these Guidelines should be urgently revised.
3. The IMO has taken the lead for the revision of the Guidelines as it has assumed the responsibility for the publication of the new edition of the said IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines (as was the case with the 1997 edition). In this respect, the IMO has invited the secretariats of the ILO and the UNECE to work together with its own secretariat on the revision of the Guidelines.
4. The secretariats of the ILO, IMO and UNECE have concluded that the revision of the Guidelines could best be undertaken by a joint IMO/ILO/UNECE working group (WG) which is proposed to be established in the second half of 2011 and to finalize the revision in 2013 at the latest. It was further proposed that the working language of the WG would be English.
5. The UNECE has informed the ILO that it will be represented in the WG by representatives of its member States, concerned IGOs and NGOs, as well as by the UNECE secretariat. The IMO informed the ILO that it will be represented in the WG by IMO officials.
6. In line with previous practice, the Office proposes that the ILO delegation consist of one or more ILO officials, as well as one Worker and one Employer representative nominated by the Workers' and Employers' groups of the Governing Body. Additional Worker and Employer representatives would be welcome to participate at no cost to the Office.
7. In consultation with the secretariats of the IMO and UNECE, draft terms of reference for the WG were developed. In accordance with these, it is proposed that the WG's objectives be to prepare and recommend for endorsement to the IMO, ILO and UNECE a draft revised version of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo transport units (CTUs), which would reflect the latest information, best practices and requirements on the subject. The WG shall take into account the draft amendments to a part of the Guidelines concerning dangerous goods, which were prepared by the Editorial and Technical Group of the Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC) of the IMO. The WG will adopt the draft revised version of the Guidelines by consensus.
8. *The Committee may wish to recommend that the Governing Body authorize:*
 - (a) *the revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of cargo transport units (1997 edition) by a joint IMO/ILO/UNECE working group on the basis of the proposals made by the Office in consultation with the secretariats of the IMO and UNECE, as set out in paragraphs 4, 5 and 7; and*
 - (b) *the participation of the ILO in the joint working group by one or more ILO officials, as well as one Worker and one Employer representative nominated by the Workers' and Employers' groups of the Governing Body, as set out in paragraph 6 above.*

Geneva, 17 January 2011

Point for decision: Paragraph 8