**PPR 4**

The 4th session of the PPR sub-committee was held at the IMO Headquarters from 16 to 20 January 2017.

***PPR4 has agreed on the following decisions on the:***

* final draft of the revised chapter 21 of the IBC Code, for approval in principle by MEPC 71 and MSC 98;
* draft OSV Chemical Code and the associated draft Assembly resolution for its adoption, for approval by MSC 98 and MEPC 71, with a view to adoption by A 30;
* draft Guidance on methodologies that may be used for enumerating viable organisms, for approval by MEPC 71 and subsequent dissemination as a BWM circular;
* updated version of the manual entitled "Ballast Water Management – How to do it", with a view to its finalization and approval by MEPC 71;
* draft Guidelines for the discharge of exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) bleed-off water, and requested the Secretariat to prepare the associated draft resolution, with a view to submission to MEPC 71 with a view to adoption;
* draft 2017 Guidelines addressing additional aspects to the NOX Technical Code 2008 with regard to particular requirements related to marine diesel engines fitted with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) Systems, and requested the Secretariat to prepare the associated draft MEPC resolution with a view to submission to MEPC 71, with a view to adoption.

***Issues addressed to PPR5:***

* guidelines for sampling of ballast water;
* impact on the Arctic of emissions of Black Carbon;
* standards for shipboard gasification waste to energy systems and associated amendments to regulation 16 of MARPOL Annex VI.

***Issues to the next Working Group on the Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards (ESPH 23):***

* finalization of the revision of chapters 17 and 18 of the IBC Code;
* procedures for the assessing of products classified under Annex I or Annex II of MARPOL;
* review of MARPOL Annex II requirements that have an impact on cargo residues and tank washing of high viscosity and persistent floating products.

***Review of MEPC.2/Circular – Provisional classification of liquid substances transported in bulk and other related matters***

PPR 4 concurred with the evaluation prepared by the Working Group on the Evaluation of Safety and Pollution Hazards (ESPH 22) and released as MEPC.2/Circ.22 on Provisional classification of liquid substances transported in bulk and other related matters, published in December 2016.

41 tripartite agreements will expire in December 2017 and would be deleted from the MEPC.2/Circular. PPR4 has invited delegations to advise their industry counterparts to take action accordingly, to avoid any delay in the carriage of these products beyond their expiry dates.

If new GESAMP Hazard Profiles were required for any of these products or their components, they would need to be submitted to GESAMP/EHS 54, which is scheduled to take place from 22 to 26 May 2017.

***Revision of the IBC Code – Chapters 17, 18 and 21***

PPR4 has agreed to the final draft of the revised chapter 21 of the IBC Code, approval in principle by MEPC 71 and MSC 98, pending finalization of the revision of chapters 17 and 18 of the Code, at the same time recognizing future amendments may be needed to other areas of the IBC Code, notably to special requirement 15.12.

Revised chapter 21 is expected to enter into force on 1 July 2020. ESPH 23 will continue work on Chapters 17 and 18 to reflect the revised Chapter 21 requirements.

Chapter 21 sets out the criteria for assigning carriage requirements for products subject to the IBC Code. A point was raised about section 21.5.5 of the criteria (special requirement 15.12 – Toxic Products) and its applicability to the product Methyl alcohol.

PPR4 invited more documentation to be submitted to ESPH 23.

***Development of minimum carriage requirements for contaminated bulk liquids carried on OSVs***

PPR4 agreed to two new entries in list 1 of the MEPC.2/Circular for eventual inclusion in chapter 17 of the IBC Code and associated carriage requirements for contaminated bulk liquids from offshore installations.

A draft guidance have been also refined for selecting the appropriate chapter 17, for inclusion directly in the OSV Code.

***Revision of the guidelines for the provisional assessment of liquid substances transported in bulk (MEPC.1/Circ.512)***

PPR 4 discussed extensively the assignment of ship types based on the mixture calculation for mixtures with a safety hazard. It has noted the progress made on the revision of the Guidelines for the provisional assessment of liquid substances transported in bulk (MEPC.1/Circ.512).

It agreed to work intersessionally on further revising the circular, with a view to arriving at a clearer description of the process for assigning ship type, in the view to be in a position to finalize and reach agreement on the draft revised circular at ESPH 23, for endorsement by PPR 5 and approval by MEPC 73.

***Guidance/procedures for the assessing of products classified under Annex I or Annex II of MARPOL***

PPR4 considered a proposal for the development of guidance for the assessment of Annex II products that could be considered as Annex I complex petroleum/hydrocarbon or petroleum-like mixtures, to ensure that products were shipped under the correct Annex of MARPOL.

It agreed on a number of issues at that session that should be addressed in the guidance, notably, to incorporate additional criteria related to "reproducibility" to be used to differentiate between the mixtures covered by MARPOL Annexes I and II.

It concurred that any criteria developed should only be applied to new products and that existing products would not be reviewed against any of the new agreed criteria, unless a formal submission was made to IMO for these products to be re-assessed.

PPR 4 agreed for ESPH 23 to proceed with assessing the process that would be followed by the ESPH Working Group for determining whether products should be covered by MARPOL Annex I or II. This process should be addressed in a PPR circular, whilst the more general information on the rationale and assessment for the purposes of establishing tripartite agreements under MARPOL Annex II for such products could be addressed in a MEPC circular.

***Review of MARPOL Annex II requirements that have an impact on cargo residues and tank washing of high viscosity and persistent floating products***

MEPC 68 instructed PPR 3 to review Annex II of MARPOL and the IBC Code with regards to the discharge requirements relating to the cleaning and discharging of tank washings containing high viscosity, solidifying and persistent floating products to reduce the impact to the environment.

PPR 4 has continued its work on this agenda item. The target completion date of this item is 2018.

PPR4 concurred with the following draft amendments:

* the inclusion of a definition for persistent floaters in MARPOL Annex II;
* the principle of an amendment of regulation 13.7 with regard to the requirements for the discharge of residues of category Y;
* means of identifying a group of persistent floaters for which a prewash would be required in the IBC Code, agreeing in principle to the development of a new special requirement in chapter 16 of the Code.

***Code for the transport and handling of limited amounts of hazardous and noxious liquid substances in bulk on offshore support vessels***  
  
PPR4 agreed to the draft OSV Chemical Code and the associated draft Assembly resolution for its adoption, for approval by MSC 98 and MEPC 71, with a view to adoption by A 30.

It noted the view of a majority of delegations that the OSV Chemical Code should be made mandatory in the future, and encourage interested Member States to submit proposals for a relevant new output to the Committees after the adoption of the Code by the Assembly.

For the time being, all mandatory language used in the draft OSV Chemical Code have been replaced with non-mandatory terms unless there was a direct quotation of the Convention or mandatory code.

***Guidelines for sampling of ballast water (G2)***

IMarEST proposed amendments to the Guidelines on ballast water sampling (G2) (resolution MEPC.173(58)) to incorporate a standard sample port.   
  
Some delegations expressed the view that there was no need to revise the Guidelines (G2) and that an ISO standard might be more appropriate to address the issue (ISO informed PPR4 of its ongoing work in revising the Ballast Water Sampling Standard ISO 11711-1).   
  
PPR4 invited IMarEST to work with interested delegations to refine its proposal and submit a new proposal to PPR 5.

***Extension of target completion date***

PPR4 called for proposals related to ballast water sampling, analysis and contingency measures to future sessions.

In view of the forthcoming entry into force of the BWM Convention, PPR4 agreed to invite MEPC 71 to extend the target completion date for this output to 2019.   
  
***Unified Interpretation for implementing regulation B-4 (Ballast water exchange)***   
  
Noting imminent entry into force of the BWM convention, two member States expressed their intent to submit Unified Interpretation on this issue to MEPC 71.

***Review of the guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems (G8)***

The text of the 2016 Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems (G8), adopted by MEPC 70, contains the following statement relevant to the consideration of viability assessment methods:

*"4.6 The viability of organisms should be determined using a method that has been accepted by the Organization as appropriate to the ballast water treatment technology being tested. (…) Viability may be established by assessing the presence of one or more essential characteristics of life, such as structural integrity, metabolism, reproduction, motility, or response to stimuli."*

PPR4 agreed to the draft Guidance on methodologies that may be used for enumerating viable organisms, for approval by MEPC 71 and subsequent dissemination as a BWM circular.   
  
The purpose of this guidance is to provide information on methodologies used for enumerating viable organisms during the type approval of ballast water management systems, in order to verify that they meet the ballast water performance standard described in regulation D-2 of the BWM Convention.

This guidance remains open for addition of new methodologies as new or revised methodologies become available.

***Production of a manual entitled "Ballast Water Management – How to do it"***

PPR4 agreed to the updated version of the manual entitled "Ballast Water Management – How to do it", with a view to its finalization and approval by MEPC 71.

The parts of the Manual corresponding to exceptions, exemptions and the review of Guidelines (G8), regulation B-3 (Ballast water management for ships) have been finalized.   
  
**Consideration of the impact on the Arctic of emissions of Black Carbon from international shipping**

MEPC 62 agreed to a work plan to consider the impact on the Arctic of Black Carbon (BC) emissions from international shipping. Consecutive sessions of the Sub-Committee carried out this work by developing a definition of BC under consideration of applicable measurement methods as a first step.

The majority of delegations at PPR4 supported the continuation of measurement studies in order to collect more data on marine BC that would allow PPR5 to take decisions on measurement methods.

Considering that the measurement method has not yet been finalized, a correspondence group will be established with a view to finalization of the draft measurement reporting protocol at PPR 5.

PPR4 agreed to recommend to the MEPC a revised target completion date of 2019.   
  
***Development of standards for shipboard gasification waste to energy systems and associated amendments to regulation 16 of MARPOL Annex VI***  
  
PPR4 considered that the draft Standards needed to be restructured and both the draft Standards and regulation 16 of MARPOL Annex VI needed to be technology neutral. Furthermore, consequential amendments may be required to other provisions under MARPOL Annex VI, for example, the IAPP Certificate.

Owing to time constraints, the Working Group could not finalize draft Standards.   
  
With a view to further development of these standards, PPR4 has decided to establish a correspondence group which should report to PPR5.

Consequently, PPR will recommend to the MEPC a revised target completion date of 2019.   
  
***Guidelines for the discharge of exhaust gas recirculation bleed-off water***

MEPC 68 briefly discussed the possible discharge guideline of such bleed-off water. The proposal put forward was to use MARPOL Annex I (for oil) until the 2009 Guidelines for exhaust gas cleaning systems-EGCS (Resolution MEPC.184(59)) for acidity. 

PPR 4 had to review the outcome of the correspondence group which prepared draft guidelines. It considered that bleed-off water should be treated as MARPOL Annex VI wastes.   
  
Finally, PPR4 agreed to the draft Guidelines for the discharge of exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) bleed-off water, and requested the Secretariat to prepare the associated draft resolution, with a view to submission to MEPC 71 with a view to adoption.

***Revision of the 2011 SCR Guidelines***

A set of IACS Unified Interpretations were submitted to PPR 3 with regard to the “scheme B” certification of marine engine (testing engines and SCRs separately). PPR 3 and subsequently MEPC 70 agreed that the work on this topic should be done as a revision to the 2011 Guidelines addressing additional aspects to the NOX Technical Code 2008 with regard to particular provisions related to marine diesel engines fitted with Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) Systems (resolution MEPC.198(62), as amended by resolution MEPC.260(68)), rather than developing a set of Unified Interpretations.

PPR4 agreed to the draft 2017 Guidelines addressing additional aspects to the NOX Technical Code 2008, and requested the Secretariat to prepare the associated draft MEPC resolution with a view to submission to MEPC 71, with a view to adoption.

PPR4 estimated that Scheme A and Scheme B should be made equally applicable and that amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008 are required. It agreed to the justification to revise the output, including the output title to "Revision of certification requirements for SCR systems under the NOx Technical Code 2008", and has recommended approval of the revised output by MEPC 71.   
  
***Development of guidelines for the use of more than one Engine Operational Profile (Map)***

Since the application of electronic engine management systems, engine designers have been significantly freed from the traditional physical constraints imposed by a mechanical systems whereby, in terms of fuel injection, the profile of the fuel cam and the fuel pump control edges principally defined performance.

PPR4 recommends to the MEPC that the use of multiple engine operational profiles (maps) for marine diesel engines certified under MARPOL Annex VI and NOx Technical Code should be taken forward as a new output.

The output should address whether multiple maps are allowed under the provisions of MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code including questions on switching, and the frequency of switching, of maps, and that consideration needed to be given as to whether, in addition to the development of guidelines, amendments to MARPOL Annex VI and the NOx Technical Code are required.

PPR4 invite the MEPC to develop a plan for the work to be carried out with a view to completion by 2019 and consider that intersessional work is required to complete the work in a timely and expeditious manner.

***Consistent implementation of the 0.50% sulphur limit under regulation 14.1.3 of MARPOL Annex VI***

MEPC 70 decided that the fuel oil standard in regulation 14.1.3 of MARPOL Annex VI shall become effective on 1 January 2020. In addition, MEPC 70, in recognizing the concerns expressed regarding implementation, agreed to forward relevant comments made in plenary to PPR 4, for further consideration and to draft a justification and scope for a new output on what additional measures may be developed to promote consistent implementation of the 0.50% global sulphur limit, for consideration at MEPC 71.

PPR 4 prepared the justification for a new output on consistent implementation of the 0.50% global sulphur limit and the scope for the new output to be added to the biennal agenda of the sub-committee.