



MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
82nd session  
Agenda item 21

MSC 82/21/4  
23 August 2006  
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## WORK PROGRAMME

### Safety of navigation

#### Proposal to amend the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972

#### Submitted by Italy

#### SUMMARY

**Executive summary:** This document contains a proposal for the addition of a new item to the work programme of the NAV Sub-Committee requesting the revision of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at sea, 1972

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 10

**Related documents:** None

#### Introduction

1 Since 1972, mainly due to the improvement of economic conditions of people, the number of pleasure craft, increased very rapidly. In the meantime also increased the number of commercial ships transporting most of the goods on which the world's trade is based. Notwithstanding the Convention on International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 still treats in equal terms both commercial and pleasure vessels basing the right of way only on the provenience of the ship without taken into account both the ship's type and the service it is intended to. This needs to be revised as described in paragraph 2 below.

#### Scope of the proposal

2 Italy proposes that the COLREGs are amended so as to give commercial ships the right of way on pleasure craft.

#### Need or compelling need

3 Amendments as proposed above are needed to:

- .1 establish the priority of commercial ships over those vessels exclusively used for recreational purposes; and
- .2 reduce the risk of collision in restricted areas with high density of pleasure craft and where it is very difficult to manoeuvre safely for large commercial vessels.

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**Analysis of issues involved**

4 The proposed amendments will involve no cost to the industry. The associated and legislative burden will be relating to the revision of four existing Rules and to the insertion of a new Rule [26*bis*].

**Benefits expected from the proposal**

5 By adopting the proposed amendments, ships involved in commercial trade will benefit of a priority on those just used for recreational purposes and the risk of collision involving commercial and recreational crafts will be reduced.

**Priority and target completion date**

6 It seems desirable that MSC 82 should consider this proposal in November 2006 for the first consideration at the fifty-third session of the NAV Sub-Committee to be held in July 2007.

**Are the subjects within the scope of the IMO's objective?**

7 The subject is the Convention on International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 and is therefore clearly within the scope of IMO.

**Do the benefits justify the proposed action?**

8 The action proposed is significant, however, Italy is of the opinion that the benefits justify the action. In fact, it will be finally established the priority of those are involved in commercial activities over those just using ships for recreational purpose. Then the risk of collision in restricted areas with high density of pleasure crafts will be noticeably reduced.

**Draft text of proposed amendments**

9 The text of the proposed amendments to COLREG is set out in annex.

**Action requested of the Committee**

10 The Committee is invited to consider the above views and proposals, and to add to the work programme of the NAV Sub-Committee a new high priority item on "Development of draft amendments to COLREGs 72 in order to establish the right of way of commercial ships over pleasure craft."

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## ANNEX

### Rule 3 – General Definition

The following definition of “*pleasure crafts*” is inserted after the existing paragraph (g):

*“The term “Pleasure crafts” includes any boat of any type, regardless of the means of propulsion, intended for sports and leisure purposes except if they are used for charter or for recreational boating training.”*

### Rule 13 – Overtaking

The following new paragraph (d) is inserted:

*“A pleasure craft shall keep out of the way of an overtaking vessel unless it also belongs to the category of pleasure crafts.”*

The existing paragraph (d) is renumbered as (e)

### Rule 15 – Crossing situation

The following new sentence is added after the existing sentence:

*“If one of the crossing vessels is a pleasure craft, it shall keep out of the way and, if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid crossing ahead of the other vessel.”*

### Rule 18 – Responsibilities between vessels

The existing paragraph (a) is modified as follows:

*“A power-driven vessel underway shall keep out of the way of:*

- (i) a vessel not under command;*
- (ii) a vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre;*
- (iii) a vessel engaged in fishing;*
- (iv) a sailing vessel, except sailing pleasure crafts.”*

The following new paragraph (f) is inserted after paragraph (e) and the following paragraph renumbered accordingly:

*“A pleasure craft underway shall keep out of the way of all vessels except if the risk of collision regards two sailing vessels. To that case the Rule 12 applies.”*

### New Rule 26bis is to be inserted – Pleasure crafts underway

*“in addition to lights and shapes required by other relevant Rules of Part C [Rules 23, 24, 25, 27 and 30], a pleasure boat will exhibit an appropriate light and shape for guaranteeing its clear identification. (light and shape to be defined.)”*