



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STABILITY AND
LOAD LINES AND ON FISHING
VESSELS SAFETY - 38th session
Agenda item 10

AMENDMENTS TO, AND INTERPRETATION OF,
TONNAGE MEASUREMENT REQUIREMENTS

Tonnage measurement of existing ships

Submitted by the United Kingdom

The International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships 1969 (ITC-69) requires existing ships of 24 metres and above to be remeasured and their tonnages computed and tonnage certificates issued by 18 July 1994.

At its fifty-ninth session, the Maritime Safety Committee urged Member States (MSC/Circ.575 dated 8 July 1991) to remind shipowners of the need to have their ships remeasured and an ITC-69 Certificate issued by the mandatory date. In response, the tonnage measurement organizations appointed by the United Kingdom Administration have independently reminded shipowners that they should obtain such an ITC-69 Certificate by that date.

It will be recalled that a submission by the United Kingdom (MSC 62/INF.7) highlighted the difficulties experienced by the IACS tonnage measurement organizations in the remeasurement of existing ships by 18 July 1994. Additionally, it drew attention to the potential consequences of some ships being unable to comply by then, and of the possible resulting problems to port authorities and shipowners as well as to Member States' tonnage measurement organizations.

It will also be recalled that this United Kingdom paper postulated that Member States having on their registers ships which may not have been remeasured by that date will need to consider effective measures for dealing with this situation. SLF 38/1/1 (paragraph 13) advised that the Sub-Committee would consider the problem and prepare draft guidelines on how to proceed in respect of such ships.

The United Kingdom agrees in principle with the proposals made by Germany in their paper SLF 38/10 that gross tonnage may be obtained by using the provisional formula:

$$GT = V_E \times a$$

Urgent discussion is required, however, to establish the values of "a" which should be attributed to different ship types.

The United Kingdom also endorses the proposal made by Germany for the issue of a Preliminary Statement of Tonnage, although it is for discussion whether a more appropriate description of the document would be a Provisional ITC-69 Certificate.

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