

SafeSeaNet Workshop no. 19
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22 & 23 May 2013

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Lisbon, 17 April 2013

SAFESEANET OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Progress of the MRS WG

Submitted by MRS WG

<i>Summary</i>	This report presents the status of the work carried out by the MRS Working Group. It provides an overview of the documents analysed within the working group, and of the follow-up actions.
<i>Action to be taken</i>	As per paragraph 4
<i>Related documents</i>	a. Directive 2002/59/EC (as amended) b. MSC.43(64) c. HLSG 8, Agenda point 3.2 d. SSN 18, Agenda item IV

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mandatory Reporting Systems (MRS) contribute to improve maritime safety, with the main objective being to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow through confined and/or congested waters.

At HLSG 8 (Brussels, 13 December 2012), Member States agreed to establish the MRS WG with the following goals:

- Draft the MRS reporting/requesting related business rules.
- Propose a new or amended MRS notification structure in order to cope with all data gathered by the different MRSs, taking into account the suggestion of the Data Quality Working Group (DQWG).
- Consider the implementation of an MRS XML request/response mechanism.
- Draft dedicated guidelines on MRS notifications.
- Investigate, within concerned MSs, whether any coordination initiatives need to be established within SSN to address common MRSs.
- Assess the possibility of phasing out the phone/fax reporting option.

The activities began in January 2013, with the participation of 9 MSs (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden and United Kingdom). The work has been carried out by correspondence.

The WG proposal addressed the following main objectives:

- a.** To review the existing MRS framework in SSN in order to solve the problems related to the current SSN implementation¹, and to develop an enhanced messaging mechanism (notification and request/response) in order to cope with the operational needs of the MRS Authorities².
- b.** To propose the concept for the retrieval/re-use of information already available in SSN. It should be noted that this proposal does not affect the responsibilities of either ship masters or MRS Authorities, which remain unchanged (in accordance with the existing IMO/EU legal framework). This mechanism can be implemented by MSs on a voluntary basis.

2. CURRENT STATUS

In February 2013, EMSA distributed the draft document which introduced the general concept for the proposed enhanced framework and the business rules, and asked participants to submit their comments/inputs. The attached version of the document includes the comments collected.

In addition, Denmark made two specific comments related to:

- a.** the re-usability of data stored in SSN that has already been provided by other authorities. MSs should come to a common understanding on the procedures for re-using the existing data in SSN. This issue can be addressed when drafting the MRS guidelines.
- b.** the possibility of avoiding the re-submission of information to SSN that is already available in the system. Although this aims at reducing the administrative burden imposed on the MRS authorities, it is out of the scope of the WG ToRs (as this would require changes to the IMO/EU legal framework).

3. PROPOSAL

In order to achieve the above goals, the following principles are proposed:

- a.** The information required by Annex 1(4) of VTMIS Directive should be mandatory in all MRS notifications to the SSN central system.
- b.** The exchange of a full IMO resolution A 850(21) dataset should be supported by SSN central system. This would also allow for the set-up of a flexible MRS messaging framework which could be compatible with any of the MRS requirements of Member States.

¹ As identified in SSN 18/4/1.

² The technical work will be launched as the business rules are validated.

- c. The information exchanged should be customised via the central SSN management console (see "b." above). This would support the specific needs of MSs (e.g. for MRSs requesting more designators than those required by the VTMISS Directive), as well as of the cooperation/regional agreement on data exchange (e.g. for shared MRS).
- d. A new set of queries should be implemented to facilitate the retrieval of MRS-related information.
- e. All details should be included in notifications.
- f. It should be possible to update/delete MRS notifications, depending on approved access rights.

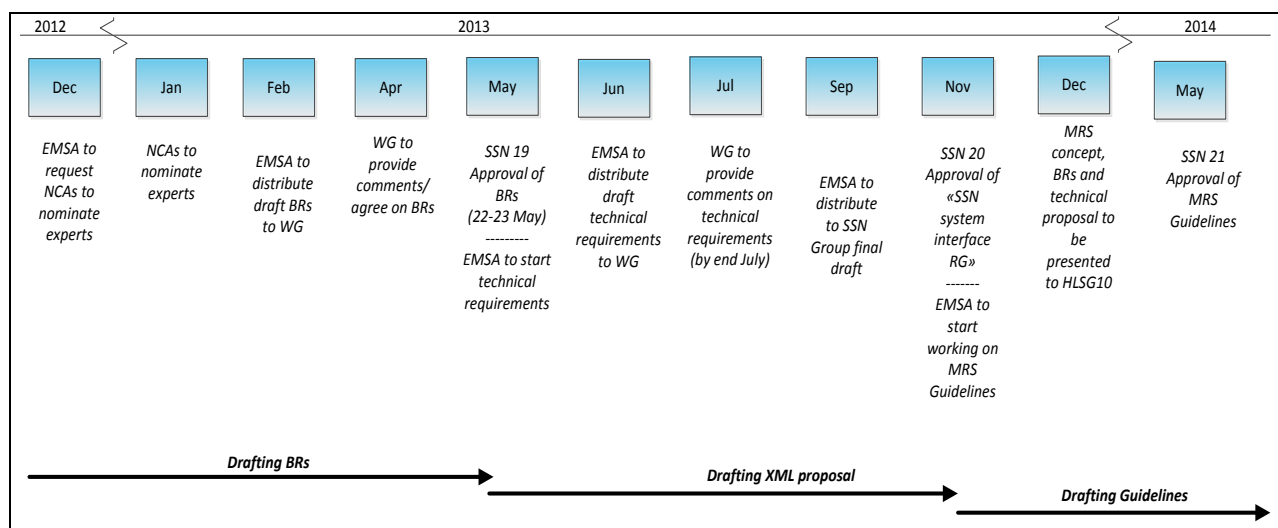
The proposal elaborated by the MRS WG is consistent with the mandate given by the SSN HLSG (approved ToR) and respects the existing legal framework of both the VTMISS Directive and the IMO MSC requirements.

4. ACTION REQUIRED

The Member States are invited to:

- approve the concept for improving the exchange of MRS information via SSN and its related business rules, and;
- agree on introducing the re-use of data in a specific section of the future MRS guidelines.

A proposed revision to the project time plan is as follows:



Attachments:

Annex: MRS business rules