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SAFESEANET technical aspects

Mandatory Reporting System Working Group (MRS WG) progress report

Submitted by MRS WG

Summary	This document presents the progress achieved by the MRS WG. It includes the relevant business rules for obtaining enhanced MRS data exchange via SSN as well as the technical XML messaging structure.
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 4
Related documents	a. Directive 2002/59/EC as amended, Art. 5 and Annex I.4 b. SSN 18.4.1 c. HLSG 9, agenda item 3.3

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

An assessment carried out by EMSA during June 2012 showed that the exchange of MRS data via SSN needs to be improved[1].

The associated issues were discussed at the SSN 18 (October 2012), and the set-up of a dedicated MRS working group was proposed. SSN HLSG 8 (December 2012) approved the proposal, and agreed that the working group should be given the following tasks:

➢ **Operational:**

- The drafting of MRS reporting-related business rules.

- The drafting of dedicated guidelines for MRS notifications.

- Assessment of the possibility of phasing out the phone/fax reporting option.

➢ **Technical:**

- The development of a new notification, based on the outcomes of the agreed business rules.

- The set-up of an XML request/response mechanism which is able to distinguish between AIS and MRS details.

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[1] The issues are fully depicted in the paper SSN 18.4.1

The MRS WG was established with participants from 9 countries (DK, EE, FI, FR, IT, NO, PL, UK and SW) and worked by correspondence.

At SSN 19 (May 2013), an extensive proposal aiming at improving the overall MRS data exchange through SSN[2] was presented. The SSN group did not validate the business rules but agreed to continue the work of the MRS WG.

At HLSG9 (June 2013), after a presentation of the progress report on MRS, the guidance from the SSN HLSG was to move forward by:

- amending the current MRS messages to fix the inherent issues, and;

- to draft the MRS Guidelines in order to provide a common understanding on MRS reporting in SSN

The idea of a totally new messaging framework re-using the available data was considered of low priority and put on hold.

2. CURRENT STATUS

A new proposal was distributed to the WG following the guidance provided by the HLSG. The key points are summarised below:

- The changes in the MRS notification and request/response aim at fixing the issues identified minimizing the impact at MS level.

- The exchange of information through SSN is not granted for ships which do not have an IMO or MMSI number.

- The proposed messages (notification and request / response) will replace the current ones. Therefore, no backward compatibility is envisaged.

- The notification includes few new additional fields ("MRS identification", "CST identification", "Report type" and "Any Other Information") to fix the technical issues as well as to support regional cooperations. For the same reason, two existing attributes currently in the details have been moved to the notification ("ReportingDateTime" and "AnyDG"). This will allow to properly identifying the presence of Hazmat in MRS notification.

- Two new queries have been defined. The first is designed to retrieve the latest AIS or MRS details for a selected ship. The second will retrieve a list of recent MRS information for a specific MRS (providing a list of MRS notifications within a predefined timeframe for a specific MRS).

- Additional information on how and when to report will be included in the MRS guidelines.

The feedback received from the WG is summarized in the next section.

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[2] Available in the document SSN 19.4.1

3. FEEDBACK AND PROPOSAL

- **Time plan for implementation**:

  o Feedback: IT stressed the need to harmonize this challenge with the other tasks already up to the MSs (e.g. National single windows, SSN v3, etc.).
  o Proposal: the time plan should be consistent with the developments of SSN foreseen for the implementation of the reporting formalities Directive (specifications by the end of 2013, development in 2014, mandatory from 1st June 2015).

- **MRS data exchange format**:

  o Feedback: DK, IT, FR and PL supported the data provision only via XML. The use of attached document (URL) heavily reduces the possibility of reusing data, therefore should be phased out.
  o Proposal: The MRS details will be available only through XML.

- **Regional cooperation:**

  o Feedback: IT welcomes the possibility offered by the new framework to support regional cooperation such as Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region. IT foresees, within regional agreement perspectives, operational benefits by including additional designators on a voluntary basis.
  o Proposal: the technical feasibility for SSN to support the exchange of additional designators will be assessed with the voluntary countries.

- **Inclusion of additional fields:**

  o Feedback: in principle the WG supported the inclusion of the additional attributes (see paragraph 2). PL and DK questioned about the inclusion of the optional attribute "Report Type". IT supported this inclusion.
  o Proposal: the inclusion of the following additional field is proposed as below:
    – "MRS identification" as mandatory;
    – "CST identification", "Report type" and "Any Other Information" as optional.

- **Query "List of MRS information for a specific MRS":**

  o PL commented that the XML interface should be the primary solution for fulfilling the Directive obligations and supported an XML solution even for that query.
  o Proposal: This query is also proposed in XML for the voluntary MSs.

- **Cargo information:**

  o Feedback: Denmark proposed to remove the URL for cargo manifest.

o Proposal: the provision of cargo manifest through an URL is removed. Information on cargo can be provided through the attribute "Cargo Type" (free text). In addition, the "ContactDetails" element is simplified for having only the phone mandatory (to serve the designator T: address for the communication of the cargo information).

Based on the comments above, the business rule and technical proposal documents have been amended as per annex 1, 2 and 3.

4. ACTION REQUIRED

The Member States are invited to:

➢ Validate the attached business rules,

➢ Agree on the proposed amendment to the XML Reference Guide,

➢ Agree to implement these changes in parallel to those planned for the reporting formalities Directive (Implementation in 2014 and mandatory in production by 1st June 2015).

Attachments:

Annex 1: MRS Business rules

Annex 2: MRS business data elements

Annex 3: MRS XML proposal