

Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) Awareness Training

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Marine accident investigation

Article 10(2) of Directive 2002/59/EC requires Member States to ensure that Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) data:

- **are used in a marine accident investigation; and**
- **are properly analysed**

VDR benefits

- **Early and accurate factual information (WHAT)**
 - **Use in conducting witness interviews (WHY)**
 - **Early focus on areas for further investigation**
 - **Identification of underlying contributing factors**
 - **Basis for sound remedial action**
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- **Significant improvements to investigation quality and outcome**

VDR data

- **Timed-based data for at least 12 hours**
- **Position, heading, speed, water depth**
- **Rudder and engine order and response**
- **Main alarms, hull openings and fire doors status**
- **Radar display**
- **Bridge audio**
- **Communications audio**

Current perspective

- **23 VDR manufacturers**
- **different products**
- **different saving, retrieving and playback procedures**
- **extension of SOLAS carriage requirements to all existing cargo ships of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards by 2008**

VDR awareness seminars

- **Estonia – May 2005**
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland
- **Malta – July 2005**
Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia
- **Turkey – February 2006**
Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Turkey

Content

Day 1

- **VDR history, performance and carriage requirements**
- **Information sources, manufacturers and models**
- **Playback software, examples of VDR data analysis**

Day 2

- **Shipboard downloading, playback and analysis**

Feedback

VDR awareness training

- requirement for diversity of knowledge and skills
- possible national and regional solutions

EMSA marine casualty investigation workshops

- general interest among Member States in improving national knowledge for saving and retrieving VDR data
- need for autonomy so as to assure independence

Next steps

- **Consultative Technical Group for Cooperation in Marine Accident Investigation**
- **VDR use, facilities and cooperation**

Possible solution:

- **Annually updated VDR knowledge resource**
- **Introductory and annual seminars**
- **Technical support by e-mail and telephone**
- **On-line technical forum**