

**SafeSeaNet Workshop no. 20**  
**Agenda item IV**  
**06 November 2013**

**SSN 20/4/3 (v1.00)**  
**Lisbon, 5 September 2013**

## **SAFESEANET TECHNICAL ASPECTS**

### **SSN Interface**

#### **Submitted by SSN Interface Sub-group**

<i>Summary</i>	This document presents the results of the sub-group for the definition of the technical specifications for the SafeSeaNet interface.
<i>Action to be taken</i>	As per paragraph 4
<i>Related documents</i>	a. Article 6 of Directive 2010/65/EU b. Article 2, par. 4.i) of Regulation (EU) No. 100/2013 c. SSN 19.4.7 SSN interface

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On 20 October 2010, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2010/65/EU, which is referred to in this document as the "Reporting Formalities Directive". According to the Directive, Member States (MSs) shall accept the fulfilment of reporting formalities in electronic format, and their transmission via a single window, no later than **1 June 2015**.

Article 6 of the Directive requires MSs to ensure that information received in accordance with the reporting formalities provided in a legal act of the Union is made available in their national SSN systems, and that relevant parts of the information are made available to other MSs via the SSN system. This applies to the following reporting formalities, as identified in the annex of the Directive:

- Notification prior to entry into the ports of Member States (Article 4 of Directive 2002/59/EC),
- Notification of dangerous or polluting goods carried on board (Article 13 of Directive 2002/59/EC),
- Notification of waste and residues (Article 6 of Directive 2000/59/EC),
- Notification of security information (Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 725/2004).

In addition, Port State Control (PSC) related information is already exchanged via SSN in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2009/16/EC (72h pre-arrival, arrival and departure notifications).

Article 6(3) of the Reporting Formalities Directive also states that the digital format of the message to be used within national SSN systems shall be established in accordance with Article 22a of Directive 2002/59/EC (i.e. SafeSeaNet).

Accordingly, the SSN interface sub-group was established at SSN Workshop 19 (22-23 May 2013) in order to determine the required changes to the technical specifications of the SSN interface.

The existing SSN principles should be respected as far as possible, with changes minimised, in order to avoid major changes to the national SSN systems.

## **2. CURRENT STATUS**

The SSN Interface sub-group carried out its tasks in accordance with the agreed terms of reference, and was organised as follows:

- **1<sup>st</sup> meeting (25 June 2013, Lisbon):**

The functional specifications presented at SSN Workshop 19 were finalised and served as the starting point for the development of technical specifications. The first draft of the technical specifications was also revised, which included the technical definition of each data element to be exchanged via SSN.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (13 August 2013, Lisbon):**

The complete set of technical specifications was revised. This included the detailed XML messages (i.e. notification and request/response), the exchange mechanism, the technical definition of each data element, the applicable coding and the business rules.

- The technical specifications were finalised by correspondence in the form of a revised XML Reference Guide.

The functional specifications are provided in Annex II and the revised XML Reference Guide is provided in Annex I.

The changes to SSN will be presented to the HLSG for approval, and to the eMS group for information. This process should be concluded by the end of 2013 in order that EMSA and the MSs can proceed with the technical implementation during 2014.

## **3. PROPOSAL ANALYSIS**

This chapter introduces the main changes proposed in the XML Reference Guide. The proposed changes are included in track changes in the draft XML Reference Guide in Annex I (compared to the current version v2.07).

### **3.1. Waste and Security information requirements**

The most important impact that the Reporting Formalities Directive will have on SSN is the exchange of the notification of waste and residues (Article 6 of Directive 2000/59/EC) and security information (Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 725/2004).

As input, the SSN Interface sub-group took into account the business rules approved by the eMS Group. The data elements identified by the eMS "Data Mapping" sub-group were added to the SSN messages following a structure similar to the current PortPlus.

Only part of the available information is transmitted in the PortPlus notification. The detailed information is stored at national level, and is made available upon request using the current SSN exchange mechanism (ShipCall request and response messages).

The technical definitions and coding of data elements were based on the existing technical definitions in SafeSeaNet and international standards (ISO 28005-2 standard

and the WCO data model). When that was not possible, a specific definition was determined by the SSN Interface sub-group.

### **3.2. Improvements to the Hazmat information**

Although Hazmat information (Notification of dangerous or polluting goods carried on board, Article 13 of Directive 2002/59/EC) is already available in SSN, the SSN Group suggested previously that the current Hazmat XML structure needed improvement in order to properly identify Hazmat products (SSN 12/7/3).

The eMS "General Maritime" sub-group drafted business rules to improve this issue, and considered the possibility of incorporating additional data elements from IMO FAL form 7 in the NSW, as well as exchanging these elements via SSN. Since there is no EU legal obligation to report this information, they were included as optional fields.

In addition, the Reporting Formalities Directive requires that data is transmitted in electronic format, which is defined as the "process of transmitting information that has been encoded digitally using a revisable structured format which can be used directly for storage and processing by computers" (article 2-f). Therefore, the option of exchanging Hazmat details in other formats than XML will be removed.

At its second meeting, the sub-group drafted a proposal for an XML structure for Hazmat details without agreeing on a final structure. The SSN Interface sub-group is continuing its consideration of the structure by correspondence. The SSN Group will be informed of the recommendations of the SSN Interface sub-group in order to be able to agree on a final structure for hazmat details.

### **3.3. Request for details**

The current exchange mechanism in SSN is maintained. The changes proposed reflect the upgrade to include Waste, Security and Hazmat detailed information.

Given that the provision of notification details in XML format may represent a significant amount of information to be processed by the Central SSN System (especially in the case of Hazmat details for container ships) and national applications, and given that complex situations may occur when details from different MSs are requested, it was agreed that EMSA would perform an assessment of the impact on SSN and provide a technical solution. The results of this assessment will be made available to the SSN Group in a separate document.

The draft XML Reference Guide does not allow combined requests (this is limited to either Hazmat or Waste or Security details).

### **3.4. Information on exemptions**

Exemptions granted as per Article 15 of Directive 2002/59/EC regarding pre-arrival and Hazmat information can currently be recorded in SSN through the SSN web interface only.

As reflected in the Security business rules, the MARSEC Committee decided that information of exemptions as regards Security notifications shall be kept in each national SSN system and in the central SSN system.

The SSN Interface sub-group drafted a proposal of message-based mechanism including a new XML message for the reporting of exemptions, in addition to the existing possibility of reporting exemptions via the SSN web interface.

Information on the exemptions applicable to ships is provided in the SSN response message (individually for pre-arrival, Hazmat and Security).

With respect to exemption from providing Waste notifications (Article 9 of Directive 2000/59/EC), the Commission has advised that Directive 2000/59/EC will need to be amended in order to be able to include the reporting of waste notification exemptions using SSN. Accordingly, no action was done on the issue.

### **3.5. Traceability of the information provided in the response messages**

The Waste and Security business rules include requirements relating to the traceability of the actions of users. The IFCD also includes (Chapter 7.2 'Security Policy') requirements for the traceability of the actions of SSN users accessing the system.

In order to improve user traceability in SSN, it is proposed that the identification of the requestor should be included in the "request for details", and that the source of the information provided should be included in the "response message". This adjustment will allow NCAs to know who requested the information, while the requestor to know the source of the information provided in the response and when the information was last updated.

## **4. ACTIONS REQUIRED**

The Member States are invited to:

- provide comments on the draft XML Reference Guide (Annex I) by **4 October 2013**, and;
- approve the draft XML Reference Guide at the SSN Workshop 20.

Attachments:

Annex I: Draft XML Reference Guide

Annex II: Functional specifications