

Number 3 – December 2009

Confiscated passports returned

After "Full City" ran aground in Norway this summer, the passports of two of the Chinese crew were confiscated awaiting the trial which is due to take place in January next year. After several hearings, the Supreme Court finally decided that the passports were to be returned to the seamen and they have now finally been allowed to return home to their families.

Charting shipping nations

A research institute has received an assignment from the Norwegian Maritime Officers Association (NMOA) and others to chart international regulations and national schemes governing the adjustment of wages and working conditions for seafarers.

"We wish to obtain a survey of customs and practice in comparable shipping countries", says Captain Hans Sande in NMOA.

Stricter control of ships

The Norwegian Pollution Control Authority is now strengthening and coordinating its efforts concerning transport of hazardous waste to and from Norwegian ports. The background for the tightening up of supervision is the explosion that occurred on the west coast of Norway some time ago.

The Nordic Navigator Congress celebrates its centenary

The Nordic Navigator Associations cooperate through the Nordic Navigator Congress which holds meetings twice yearly. Next year the congress will be celebrating its centenary and this occasion will be commemorated in Stockholm, Sweden, on 24 February, at a seminar and banquet.

Year of the Seafarer

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has declared 2010 as the year of the Seafarer. ITF Maritime Safety Committee has established an ad hoc committee. This committee met in Dania Beach, Florida and recommends to the ITF Seafarer's Section and the Secretariat:

- 1) Enjoin all maritime affiliates to begin January 1, 2010, a year long campaign at the local, national and international level to educate their local public officials, their lawmaking bodies and their public to the integral part Seafarer's play in world trade, the training and skill required to sail the ships and the personal dedication required to pursue a career at sea.
 - 2) Enjoin industry organizations to provide advice and support.
 - 3) Explore and provide support for effective use of the media to assist the affiliates in their education process.
 - 4) Provide guidance to the affiliates on best practices to approach officials at the local and national level to achieve maximum effect with key decision makers.
 - 5) Appoint a project manager with a dedicated budget to further these recommendations.
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VLCC hijacked

On 29 November a Greek-controlled crude oil tanker (VLCC) was hijacked by pirates in position 03 03N 061 30E (well East of Socrota). The position is another confirmation of the pirates' mobility and capability to operate

All vessels navigating in the Indian Ocean are advised to consider keeping East of 60E when routing North/South and to consider routing east of 60E and South of 10S when proceeding to and from ports in South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya.

Vessels are also advised not to approach closer than 100 miles from the position stated in this report and to maintain maximum CPA with any ship acting suspiciously.

While navigating in the region vessels are urged to maintain strict 24 hour anti-piracy visual and radar watches, to actively implement recommended anti-piracy measures and regularly report position/course/speed to UKMTO.

Merchant vessels are requested to report any suspicious activity to UKMTO Dubai (+97 1505523215 – ukmto@eim.ae) or IMB PRC (+60 320310014 –imbkl@icc-ccs.org/ piracy@icc-ccs.org).

ISO standard to increase confidence in ship recycling certification

An (ISO) International Organization for Standardization standard for bodies providing audit and certification of ship recycling management systems, will increase the safety of workers and environmental protection by facilitating independent recognition of good practice.

ISO 30003:2009, Ships and marine technology – Ship recycling management systems – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of ship recycling management, aims to instill confidence that the certification process has been carried out in a competent, consistent and reliable manner. The document will facilitate the recognition of accredited certification bodies and the acceptance of their certifications on an international basis.

Read more on www.iso.org

NEWS IN BRIEF is a fresh offer from the Norwegian Maritime Officers' Association. This monthly newsletter will give a summary of the most recent activities in our association and news of interest to English speaking members and seafarers on Norwegian ships. NEWS IN BRIEF will be distributed by e-mail as well as posted on our website www.sjooff.no. To subscribe, please e-mail oslo@sjooff.no