

Paper for consideration by NIPWG3

HSSC decision on ProdSpec Regulatory Information provision

Submitted by:	NIPWG Chair
Executive Summary:	Brief on HSSC advice on the intended development of a ProdSpec for Regulatory Information
Related Documents:	
Related Projects:	S-100

Introduction/Background

Regulations issued by several intergovernmental organisations have to be observed by vessels on the sea. These regulations have no hydrographic sources nor are influenced by hydrographic effects. They are related to shipborne equipment, appropriate ship's manning or to the ship's performance.

During the NIPWG 2 meeting the group was approached by an industry partner to seek endorsement of HSSC8 to initiate the development of a ProdSpec on regulatory information. It was announced that this information will be integrated in future ECDIS systems to assist the mariners to perform regulations conformity.

This paper provides the outcome of the HSSC discussions and the final HSSC decision.

Analysis/Discussion

Regulations issued by intergovernmental organisations have impacts on several types of ships. Discussions showed that a ProdSpec which would provide information on those regulations comprises inter alia regulatory information for the following ship's performance and characteristics:

- Handling: Ice capability, Load line, MARPOL
- Equipment: Rescue equipment, Firefighting equipment, MARPOL related equipment
- Manning: Crew composition

The request to initiate the development of a ProdSpec, which would provide information on these regulations, was addressed by TRANSAS at the NIPWG2 meeting. It was announced that TRANSAS intends to provide this information in their future ECDIS systems.

According to the NIPWG2 minutes, and according to action item NIPWG 2/08, the request was drafted in the NIPWG report to HSSC8. The relevant text portion was shared with TRANSAS and they agreed on that.

At the recent HSSC8 meeting the request was brought to the committee's attention. Concerns that such a ProdSpec could cover much more than the few items mentioned in the initial selection have been raised by the committee. It was highlighted that the current work load of the HSSC WGs is too high to invest time and effort in developing a ProdSpec the focus of which is not on hydrographic related information provision. Pro and cons have been intensively considered.

Finally, and due to the above mentioned reasons, the committee decided to reject the application to assign the development of such a ProdSpec to a HSSC WG. The committee recommends addressing this issue to the relevant intergovernmental organisation for considering the need of the provision of such information to the shipping.

NIPWG was advised to stop any activities in that regard until a request from IMO has been verbalised.

Action required of NIPWG3

The NIPWG3 is invited to:

- a. note this paper,
- b. inform TRANSAS of the HSSC decision,
- c. stop any further activities in that regard.