

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
62nd session  
Agenda item 19

MEPC 62/19  
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## **NOISE FROM COMMERCIAL SHIPPING AND ITS ADVERSE IMPACT ON MARINE LIFE**

### **Development of an international standard for measurement of underwater noise radiated from merchant ships**

**Submitted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**

#### **SUMMARY**

*Executive summary:* This document provides information on the development of ISO standard ISO 16554 *Protecting marine ecosystem from underwater irradiated noise – Measurement and reporting of underwater sound radiating from merchant ships*

*Strategic direction:* 7.1 and 13

*High-level action:* 7.1.2 and 13.0.1

*Planned output:* 7.1.2.4

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 9

*Related documents:* MEPC 61/19, MEPC 61/24 and DE 55/22

#### **Background**

1 As stated in paragraph 18.6 of document MEPC 60/22, the Committee, at its sixtieth session, noted that work on standards for underwater noise was contained in annex 3 and that research needs were contained in annex 4 to document MEPC 60/18 (the report of the correspondence group on noise from commercial shipping and its adverse effect on marine life to MEPC 60).

2 Paragraph 6 of document MEPC 61/19 (the report of the correspondence group to MEPC 61) states that the definition of an appropriate measuring method for underwater noise of ships should be developed (i.e. outcome of ISO TC8/SC2) to make sure that reproducible results can be derived.

3 Paragraph 19.2 of document MEPC 61/24 states that the demand for reliable underwater noise data highlighted the need to develop a definition of an appropriate measuring method for underwater noise of ships (i.e. outcome of ISO TC8/SC2) to make sure that reproducible measuring results can be derived.

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4 Following the recommendation of the correspondence group as stated in the document MEPC 61/19 (see paragraph 2 above) and note of the Committee (see paragraph 3 above), ISO TC8 (Ships and marine technology) and its SC2 (Marine environment protection) has formally been developing the International Standard ISO 16554 *Protecting marine ecosystem from underwater irradiated noise – Measurement and reporting of underwater noise radiating from merchant ships*.

5 The activity of ISO TC8/SC2 was reported to the DE Sub-Committee, at its fifty-fifth session. Consequently, DE 55, while inviting the Committee to give guidance to the Sub-Committee on how to proceed with the matter and to establish a relevant new output to the Sub-Committee's biennial agenda (paragraph 14.5 of document DE 55/22), noted that ISO TC8/SC2 is currently developing ISO 16554 (paragraph 14.6 of document DE 55/22).

6 The International Standard is currently at the "Committee Draft" stage (CD) for requesting approval for registration as a "Draft International Standard" (DIS) aimed at publishing in 2012. The official CD ballot will close on 13 May 2011 and the result will be considered at the plenary meeting of ISO TC8/SC2 to be held on 1 June 2011 in Lisbon with a view to register it as a DIS.

7 ISO standards are of a voluntary nature for use by industry as appropriate, and developed based on the demand of industry. ISO 16554 is being developed at the request of the Committee and the shipping and shipbuilding industries, which wish to have an easy to use and technically sound International Standard for measuring underwater noise radiated from merchant ships. The measurement method should, as industry opinion has indicated to ISO TC8/SC2, be carried out in a short duration (within a few hours) possibly during the official sea trial of the target ship after the completion of construction and before delivery.

8 ISO will further inform the Committee, at its sixty-second session, of the result of the discussion of the plenary meeting of ISO TC8/SC2. ISO DIS 16554 should be available for the Committee at its sixty-second session.

**Action requested of the Committee**

9 The Committee is invited to use the draft International Standard 16554 for its consideration of agenda item 19 "Noise from commercial shipping and its adverse impacts on marine life" and take action as appropriate.