

7th Legal & Insurance Committee Meeting Summary

The 7th Legal & Insurance Committee meeting commenced at 3:05 pm, covering key regulatory and risk management topics shaping the maritime industry. Representatives from Lloyd's Register (LR), American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), and LWP.Sg Consultants were invited to present on the legal framework for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), the regulatory framework for alternative fuels, and discussions for a proposed collaborative event respectively. These discussions support the committee's role in navigating evolving regulations and mitigating risks.

Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS):

Ms. Dipali Kuchekar from Lloyd's Register (LR) emphasized the evolving regulatory landscape for MASS, highlighting the role of the IMO, national regulations, and classification societies like LR, ABS, and DNV. Key instruments such as the IMO MASS Code, SOLAS, and COLREGs were discussed, with full adoption of the MASS Code delayed until 2026 and mandatory implementation by 2030. The committee stressed the need for industry collaboration, transparent data-sharing, and updated standards to address operational, communication, and cybersecurity risks as AI and remote operations advance. LR's goal-based approach and certification of 12 remotely operated vessels were noted, but larger merchant ships require more comprehensive risk assessments.

Alternative Fuels and Nuclear Propulsion:

Mr. Ilias Soultanias from ABS provided insights into the regulatory framework for alternative fuels, including ammonia, methanol, LPG, and hydrogen, as well as early discussions on nuclear propulsion using small modular reactors (SMRs). ABS highlighted regulatory trends, such as IMO amendments to the IGF Code and upcoming guidelines for ammonia (2026) and LPG (2024). Safety concerns, including toxic area classification and crew training, were underscored, with ABS advocating for sustainable fuel adoption through research and collaboration. The committee acknowledged the cost competitiveness of LPG but noted the challenges of LNG infrastructure and the need for safe engine designs for ammonia-ready ships.

Collaborative Event on Dispute Resolution:

Mr. Lee Wai Pong of LWP.Sg Consultants proposed a collaborative event with the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) on integrated dispute resolution, themed "From Tragedy to Remedy." The event would highlight mediation's effectiveness in resolving complex shipping disputes, including collisions and personal injury cases, through a "trifecta" model involving mediators, disputants, and legal counsel. The committee supported an interactive format with presentations, panel discussions, and role-playing exercises, emphasizing real-life applications over theoretical promotion. The Chairman suggested incorporating live feedback and voting to engage participants actively.

Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006:

The meeting concluded with a brief update on ongoing discussions regarding the MLC 2006, with members invited to review and provide input on the guidance document via email.

In Summary:

- The committee strongly advocated for industry-wide collaboration and regulatory adaptation to support the safe adoption of MASS and alternative fuels.
- There was a clear emphasis on the need for transparent data-sharing, updated safety standards, and crew training to address emerging risks.
- The proposed dispute resolution event was seen as a practical and engaging initiative to modernize conflict resolution in the shipping industry, with a focus on mediation's growing relevance.

Overall, the meeting highlighted the maritime industry's proactive approach to navigating regulatory challenges, fostering innovation, and enhancing risk management practices.

Singapore, 12 Feb 2025

Singapore Shipping Association

The Association was first formed as Singapore National Shipping Association (SNSA) on 29 January 1985 to represent its Members, who are basically shipowners and operators, ship managers, ship agents and shipbrokers. The Association will take the view of the shipping industry as a whole. It will play its due role to promote the interests of shipping in Singapore, ASEAN, Asia and the world. The Association will cooperate with governmental and non-governmental organisations to promote freedom of the sea, safety at sea and to protect the marine environment.