



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974
Agenda item 7

IMCO

CONSIDERATION OF A DRAFT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

Comments on proposed amendments to Regulations of the 1960 Safety Convention

Submitted by the United States of America

The following are comments on the draft texts of Regulations of the Convention as submitted to the Conference under documents SOLAS/CONF/4/1 and SOLAS/CONF/4/2.

SOLAS/CONF/4/1

The United States supports inclusion of the new Chapter II bis without change in the 1974 Convention. This is a self-contained chapter concerning fire protection for all vessels covered by the Convention. It allows orderly expansion of the regulations when new areas are to be included in the future, such as special purpose vessels, etc. Additionally, the United States supports the concept of self-contained chapters for any future amendments to the 1974 Safety Convention.

The United States concurs in the findings of the Working Group on revision of SOLAS given in paragraph 24 on pages 6 and 7 of the document SOLAS/CONF/INF.2. We wish to caution, however, that care must be exercised in rounding off dimensions now given in the British system when converted to the metric system. There is some danger that the construction of ships now built to the British system of dimensions under the existing rules might not be permitted when those dimensions are rounded down to the nearest metric equivalent.

SOLAS/CONF/4/2

The United States finds the proposed regulation changes acceptable as being necessary for the drawing up of a new convention in accordance with the decisions of the Eighth Assembly.