



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 Draft Resolutions

#### Submitted by the International Association of Classification Societies

The following are comments to the draft text of Resolution 4 - Structure and Strength of Ships - as submitted to the Conference under document SOLAS/CONF/5/1.

The Council of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) has examined the resolution and considers that the recommendation to establish a chapter on structure and strength of ships for inclusion in the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, cannot be justified.

It is noted that the work of the International Ships' Structures Congress (ISSC) in this field is referred to in the resolution. The ISSC comprises invited individual participants, expert in their field of specialisation, who meet triennially to review research and development work published by Universities, Research Institutes, Classification Societies and others and make observations relating to future possible research. The ISSC is unable to implement research and has neither the function nor the capability to establish structural design methods or rules and regulations. This work is done by the Classification Societies and is co-ordinated through the IACS' Working Party on the strength of ships.

IACS through its Working Party is continuously engaged in co-ordinating the establishment of practical and safe ship structural design and appraisal standards. It sets design criteria, determines building material standards and unifies and updates present rules and regulations, taking particular account of service reports and data.

If ship structures are to be reliable and safe, the above arrangements are essential. It is important that new proven technological developments are incorporated in ship structural design and construction and it is fundamental to ensure that full account is taken of all accumulated service experience.

IACS performs these particular functions and it is therefore proposed that ship structural strength standards and building material standards shall continue to be entrusted to the Member Societies.

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