

Minutes of the MTC meeting (webinar)

16/01/2016

Agenda

- Weighing of containers
 - National development
 - Test for informatics message (VERMAS)
- Work plan for 2016
 - Presentation of modification
- Service quality in liner shipping
 - Questionnaire to be sent through Drewry
- Dates for other meetings
 - Next MTC Meeting
 - Other coming dates

1. Weighing of containers

1.1. National development

Further to the current matrix about national development, it has been agreed that a specific page on the ESC website must be created to list all regulation known and voted for easy reference for shippers.

In this respect all members are requested to send to Policy Manager all regulations or information that are available publicly in their own country.

Furthermore, problem of non-harmonisation has been tackled and ESC through its Secretary General will launch a work with Commission to solve this problem (or at least try).

1.1.1. Austria

Austria a recently started the process of defining national legislation. Competent authority will surely pursue the “model” of Swiss regulation (very near The Netherlands).

1.1.2. Germany

Germany will only allow method 2 for certain types of shippers (EAO, ISO certified and “certified weigher”).

We don't have lot more information. More information will surely come from Austrian Shippers' Council as soon as available.

1.1.3. The Netherlands

The use of method 2 have to be certified through EAO, the use of an ERP, ISO certification or any other certification that the state can agree on. There is although no need for specific registration.

Enforcement and sanctions will be soon defined and be surely published in march.

Within the next two months, EVO will organise regional workshop to answer questions from shippers about the regulation.

1.1.4. Spain

The tolerance will surely be about 3%. Method 2 will be allowed for ISO certified shippers (20001 or 9001) as well as any certification that proves that the shipper's premises are working under the tolerance, etc.

1.1.5. Belgium

An information meeting has been held. Competent authority has presented the plan for regulation and it seems that the tolerance will be 2% and that it will apply to all containers that will embark in Belgium ports.

This approach is far from the SOLAS spirit and ESC will see how we can challenge this reading.

1.1.6. Portugal

The second proposal for draft regulation will be issued in February. Method 2 would be allowed only for certified shippers and method 1 for all others.

Proposal for tolerance was around 1%. Counter proposal from shippers was between 3 and 5. Idea to start with 5 and put in place some KPIs to see if possible to go down to 3 has been proposed but we don't know yet if it will be accepted.

1.1.7. Sweden

Sweden has concentrated in making competent authority to understand the importance of having 5% tolerance but has no feedback yet.

1.1.8. France

Method 2 will be allowed for every one as long as it used the procedure defined in industry guidelines of CEFIC/ESC/...

The tolerance will be 5% and the text are waited for end February.

1.2. Test for informatics message (VERMAS)

We have started a "partnership" with SMDG to make the test of an already published EDI message for transmitting the VGM possible.

Shippers from several countries are requested to test this message in their operation and make some comments and proposal if improvement needed. Participating in this work will allow shippers to be ahead of the pack in the process of implementation of the regulation.

It is necessary to have EDI links with its freight forwarder or liner operator to use this message.

All information is available here:

Main technical document is: <http://www.smdg.org/assets/assets/VERMAS-04.pdf>

A look at this more politic one can help: <http://www.smdg.org/assets/assets/VERMAS-SMDG-Meeting-Malta-20150930.pdf>

Several national councils have accepted to try to find shippers that want to participate. Contact of the chairman of the working group that have defined the message can be obtained upon request.

2. Work plan for 2016

2.1. Presentation of modification

A work has been carried to review the work program of the MTC for the coming year. Presentation of the results of this work can be found in appendix to these minutes.

Work program for 2016 can be viewed below.

Result of the review and plan for 2016

	Objective	Issues
Internal mobility	Facilitated and efficient transport operations	Containers and intermodal units weights
		Shortsea traffics, motorways of the seas
		TEN-T infrastructure development
Competition	Fair competition between modes and within modes, open access to markets	Alliances & consortia
		Service level in container transport
		Surcharges
		Port services, port state aid
Sustainability	Proportionate incentivizing and value adding measures	CO2 emissions measurement and reporting
		Low sulphur fuel emissions in maritime
		Infrastructure and external costs charging

3. Service quality in liner shipping

3.1. Questionnaire to be sent through Drewry

The Dutch award for deepsea shipping recently presented for the fourth year is based on a questionnaire filled up by members and analysed by Erasmus University of Rotterdam. Each of the participant choose the liner they want to evaluate on a series of criteria. The results are also used as a lobby tool during bilateral meeting and to get trends over the market.

Members of the MTC are questioned on the interest of organising such an event at European level. There was unanimity on the importance to have this kind of “survey” I order to make people move in the right direction. Warning has been made about participation that can be sometimes difficult to increase.

In order to be able to launch an award at European level, we must:

- Define criteria
- Ensure that participation is enough
- Be careful about confidentiality

Proposal for criteria is in appendix to these minutes and list should be validated for the 22 March.

Year 2016 is considered as a building year for this project with realisation in 2017.

4. Dates for other meetings

4.1. Next MTC meeting

The next meeting of the MTC will be held in Paris during the SITL transport fair trade on the 22nd march 2016.

During this afternoon of meeting inside the fair, we will have the workshop on Rotterdam Rules for one hour. Each speaker will be allowed 30 minutes. EVO will invite a specialist which is much in favour of the text as AUTF will invite expert who is against the text. After presentation, questions and answer will be organised. In the end, MTC will take its decision to support or not ratification of Rotterdam Rules.

More information about hotels and full program will be sent very soon.

Furthermore, on the 23rd of March, the SITL is organising a maritime day and we very much recommend shippers to stay for this event also. Program can [be found here](#).

4.2. Other coming dates

3rd of May from 10 to 12: MTC webinar

21st of June from 12 to 16: Plenary in Brussels

14th of September from 10 to 12: MTC Webinar

29th November: annual event and or MTC plenary