REVISION OF THE CODE OF SAFETY FOR DIVING SYSTEMS (RESOLUTION A.831(19))
AND THE GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR HYPERBARIC EVACUATION SYSTEMS (RESOLUTION A.692(17))

Outline of the draft revision of resolution A.831(19)
in a goal-based standard format

Submitted by IMCA

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides the Sub-Committee with an overview of what the draft revision of the Code of Safety for Diving Systems, 1995 (resolution A.831(19)) could look like if, in addition to being updated, it is also revised in accordance with the goal-based standard approach and is intended to supplement document SSE 7/14

Strategic direction, if applicable:

Output: 6.19

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related documents: Resolutions A.692(17) and A.831(19); MSC.1/Circ.1394/Rev.2; MSC 99/20/9 and SSE 7/14

Introduction

1 At the ninety-ninth session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) (16 to 25 May 2018), a proposal was submitted in document MSC 99/20/9 (Russian Federation, et al.) to enhance commercial diving safety by amending the Code of safety for diving systems (resolution A.831(19)) (hereinafter referred to as "the Code") and the Guidelines and specifications for hyperbaric evacuation systems (resolution A.692(17)) (hereinafter referred to as "the Guidelines") to harmonize them with current industry best practices and achieve the reinstatement of the Code as the minimum standard for diving and hyperbaric evacuation system safety.
2 The Committee agreed to include in its post-biennial agenda an output on "Revision of the Code of safety for diving systems (resolution A.831(19)), and the Guidelines and specifications for hyperbaric evacuation systems (resolution A.692(17))", assigning the Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE) as the coordinating organ.

3 Subsequently, IMCA hosted two workshops on this matter, inviting interested Member States and industry representatives to participate in order to identify issues which need to be addressed and to develop detailed proposals on how this work could be taken forward. These proposals are contained in document SSE 7/14 (Bahamas et al.).

4 During the course of the workshops, it was recognized that since the existing Code had not been revised since 1995, in addition to updating the Code and addressing the issues identified in the proposal contained in document SSE 7/14, an integral part of the revision work should include restructuring the Code in line with the Generic guidelines for developing IMO goal-based standards (MSC.1/Circ.1394/Rev.2).

5 The annex contains a draft table of contents for the proposed revised structure, in a GBS format, together with a preamble for illustrative purposes.

**Action requested of the Sub-Committee**

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the information contained in this document, in particular, the draft table of contents for the proposed revised structure of the Code set out in the annex, when considering the detailed proposals set out in document SSE 7/14.

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ANNEX

DRAFT CONTENTS AND PREAMBLE
FOR THE REVISION OF THE CODE OF SAFETY FOR DIVING SYSTEMS
(RESOLUTION A.831(19))

INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SAFETY FOR CONDUCTING DIVING OPERATIONS
(DIVING CODE)

PREAMBLE........................................................................................................................................

INTRODUCTION....................................................................................................................................

1 Goal..................................................................................................................................................

2 Definitions...........................................................................................................................................

3 Application...........................................................................................................................................

4 Exemptions...........................................................................................................................................

5 Equivalents..........................................................................................................................................

6 Surveys and Certification........................................................................................................................

7 Control................................................................................................................................................

8 Structure of the Code ...........................................................................................................................

PART I-A..................................................................................................................................................

1 CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL .....................................................................................................................

1.1 Structure of this part ..........................................................................................................................

1.2 Performance standards ......................................................................................................................

2 CHAPTER 2 – OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF SHIPS OR
FLOATING STRUCTURES FOR CONDUCTING SAFE DIVING OPERATIONS..............

2.1 Goals ................................................................................................................................................

2.2 Functional requirements .....................................................................................................................

2.3 Regulation A-1: Geographic location and environmental limiting conditions.

2.4 Regulation A-2: Structural integrity and imposed loads.................................................................

2.5 Regulation A-3: Placement of diving system on vessel or floating structure.

2.6 Regulation A-4: Subdivision and stability ......................................................................................

2.7 Regulation A-5: Position keeping .....................................................................................................

2.8 Regulation A-6: Fire safety/protection ............................................................................................

2.9 Regulation A-7: Other services.........................................................................................................

2.10 Regulation A-8: Electrical power ....................................................................................................

3 CHAPTER 3 – DIVING SYSTEM DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND SURVEY..........

3.1 Goals ................................................................................................................................................

3.2 Functional requirements ....................................................................................................................

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3.3 Regulation A-9: Diving system design
3.4 Regulation A-10: Interface between diving system and the ship or floating structure
3.5 Regulation A-11: Pressure Vessels for Human Occupancy (PVHO)
3.6 Regulation A-12: Other pressure vessels not intended for human occupancy
3.7 Regulation A-13: Wet bells and baskets used for the deployment and recovery of surface-oriented divers
3.8 Regulation A-14: Pipes, valves, fittings and hoses
3.9 Regulation A-15: Breathing gas supply, storage and temperature control
3.10 Regulation A-16: Diver handling systems
3.11 Regulation A-17: Fire prevention, detection and extinction
3.12 Regulation A-18: Electrical system
3.13 Regulation A-19: Control systems
3.14 Regulation A-20: Communications and relocation systems
3.15 Regulation A-21: Maintenance and testing

4 CHAPTER 4 – DIVING OPERATIONS

4.1 Goals
4.2 Functional requirements
4.3 Regulation A-22: Diving safety management system (DSMS)
4.4 Regulation A-23: Manning and training
4.5 Regulation A-24: Voyage planning
4.6 Regulation A-25: Evacuation

PART I-B

1 ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO THE INTRODUCTION
2 ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO CHAPTER 2 - OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS OF SHIPS OR FLOATING STRUCTURES FOR CONDUCTING SAFE DIVING OPERATIONS
3 ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO CHAPTER 3 - DIVING SYSTEM DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND SURVEY
4 ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO CHAPTER 4 - DIVING OPERATIONS

APPENDIX 1
PREAMBLE

1. The International Code of Safety for Conducting Diving Operations (Diving Code) has been developed to provide a minimum international standard for the design, construction, installation and survey of diving systems on ships and floating structures engaged in diving operations, in order to enhance the safety of divers/personnel. The Diving Code accepts that interchangeability of equipment or the addition or deletion of components is reasonable and common practice, and that this Code should not inhibit this.

2. The intent of the Diving Code is also to facilitate the international movement and operation of diving systems.

3. Throughout the development of the Diving Code, it was recognized that it must be based upon sound design and engineering principles, and experience gained from operating such systems; furthermore, that the design technology of diving systems is complex and that the Diving Code should be re-evaluated and revised, as necessary. To this end, the Organization will periodically review the Diving Code, taking into account both experience and the latest technical developments.

4. Any existing diving system which complies with the provisions of the Diving Code should be considered eligible for issuance of a certificate in accordance with this Diving Code.

5. The Diving Code has been developed for all diving systems and this includes temporary diving systems which may be installed on a vessel of opportunity. All systems that comply with the provisions of the Diving Code may be certificated in accordance with the Diving Code.

6. The key principles for developing the Diving Code have been to use a goal-based approach in determining scope and to adopt a holistic approach in reducing identified risks.