



HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON STRENGTHENING INTER-ISLAND AND LOGISTICS

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FACILITATION OF MARITIME TRANSPORT

Julian Abril

Head of Section of Facilitation
Maritime Safety Division
International Maritime Organization
jabril@imo.org

IMO – specialized UN agency

- London headquarters
- Annual budget £30+ million
- Secretariat – 300 staff
- 170 Member States
- IGOs and NGOs
- Main Conventions: 98.9 % world tonnage
- IMO – NO “POLICING” MANDATE



Trade facilitation at sea

- Unnecessary paperwork is a problem in most industries – maritime transport is no different.
- Important tool against the poverty and the economy growth of the Economy of a Country.
- Specific problem: Complexity of the port: different activities, authorities and private interests conquer in the port: utmost importance of the coordination between the actors in the clearance of the ship and her cargo.
- Balance between security/responsibility of the port State and the facilitation.

Cutting the Red Tape

- Documents required by customs, immigration, health and other public authorities: same information in different forms depending the authority.
- Facilitation measures comprise the two main elements:
 - Facilitation of shipping documentation; and
 - Facilitation of trade documentation.

Importance of the Facilitation in the Economy

- Transport is a key factor in the growth of the Economy.
- Time has direct impact to the increase of transport costs: efficient transport.
- Ship's daily freight is very high, and any delay during transport makes the costs to increase.
- There is a need to reduce the time scales of a ship: determine the documents and procedures needed for port State's appropriate control.

Analysis of FAL Convention

- Adopted on 9 April 1965.
- Number of Contracting Governments 115.
- [58](#) IMO Member States are not part of FAL yet.
- 16 articles. Annex: 7 sections.
- It is not compulsory.
- Applies equally to ships on coastal and non-coastal navigation, not applicable to warships and pleasure crafts.
- Manual of the FAL Convention.

FAL Convention - Objectives

- Prevent unnecessary delays in maritime traffic: simplifying and minimising formalities, documents and procedures
- Promote co-operation between Contracting Governments
- Uniformity in formalities (documents) and procedures (clearance)
- Reduce to a (maximum) of 7 the number of declarations which can be required by public authorities

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contains:

those measures necessary and practicable facilitate international maritime traffic.

Contracting Governments that finds impracticable to comply with such Standards, shall inform the IMO and the reasons for the differences between its own practice and such

Recommended Practices: measures which the Contracting Governments find to be desirable. Contracting Governments are required to bring their formalities, documentary requirements and procedures into accord with the Recommended Practices insofar as practicable. They shall report to the IMO thereof