



IMO

*E*

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
84th session  
Agenda item 19

MSC 84/WP.13  
15 May 2008  
Original: ENGLISH

## IMPLEMENTATION OF INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED MATTERS

### Unified interpretation of the meaning of the building contract date

1 As requested by the Committee, the Secretariat has prepared the draft MSC-MEPC circular on Unified interpretation of the meaning of the building contract date, as set out in the annex.

2 The Committee is invited to consider the draft MSC-MEPC circular with a view to approval subject to concurrent decision by the MEPC.

\*\*\*

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.



**ANNEX****DRAFT MSC-MEPC CIRCULAR ON UNIFIED INTERPRETATION  
OF THE MEANING OF THE BUILDING CONTRACT DATE FOR THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF THE SOLAS AND THE MARPOL CONVENTIONS**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, [at its eighty-fourth session (7 to 16 May 2008)], and the Marine Environment Protection Committee, [at its fifty-eighth session (6 to 10 October 2008)], with a view to providing more specific guidance for application of the relevant requirements of the SOLAS and MARPOL Conventions, approved the unified interpretation of the meaning of the building contract date, as set out in the annex.

2 Member Governments are invited to use the annexed interpretation when applying relevant provisions of SOLAS and MARPOL, and to bring it to the attention of all parties concerned.

\*\*\*

ANNEX

**UNIFIED INTERPRETATION OF THE MEANING OF  
THE BUILDING CONTRACT DATE FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
THE SOLAS AND THE MARPOL CONVENTIONS**

Under certain provisions of the SOLAS and MARPOL Conventions, the application of regulations is governed by the dates on which:

- .1 the building contract is placed;
- .2 in the absence of a building contract, the keel is laid or at a similar stage of construction; and
- .3 the ship is delivered.

For the application of such provisions, the date on which the building contract is placed for optional ships should be interpreted to be the date on which the original contract to build the series ships is signed between the shipowner and the shipbuilder as far as the date on which the option is ultimately exercised falls within the period of one year after the date of the building contract for the series of ships and the optional ships are built in the same yard and from the same plans as those of the series ships.

---