



Australian Government

Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation
and Compensation Authority

SEACARE NEWS

What's in this issue

- Seafarers Safety Net Fund Levy
- Sea Safe-Work Day 2006
- Seacare Standards Task Force
- New Permanent Impairment Guide
- CPM 7th edition released
- Seacare website upgrades
- Employers' Return to Work obligations
- Seacare Awards & Conference 2006
- Seacare Authority Appointments
- Seacare Management Group Staffing
- Seacare Notices
- Contact details



Comment from the Chairperson

The Seacare scheme is Australia's only national, industry-based OHS and workers' compensation scheme. The scheme aims to protect and enhance seafarers' health and safety and when seafarers are injured, it aims to provide for their safe and lasting return to work while providing financial security through efficient rehabilitation and workers' compensation.

The Seacare scheme is based on a range of working relationships, including between scheme employers and seafarers, shipping operators, insurers, seafarers' representatives, industry associations, rehabilitation providers, trainers, legal representatives, as well as government agencies and authorities. All of these and others, and the good working relations between them, contribute to making the Seacare scheme robust and effective.

This year the Seacare Authority will again be holding its Awards and Conference. The Awards and Conference will be held on Thursday, 26 October 2006 in Melbourne. Following the inaugural Seacare Awards presented in April 2003 and the last Awards and Conference held in Sydney in November 2004, this year's events promise to be a unique opportunity for all parties involved in the Seacare scheme and in the Australian maritime industry generally, to come together to celebrate and to learn from the best positive initiatives and achievements in the scheme.

You will soon be receiving information about the 2006 Seacare Awards and how to nominate, along with details on the Conference and Awards Presentation Dinner and the sponsorship opportunities for these events. I trust that all sections of the industry will consider how they can best contribute to and participate in the success of Seacare's showcase events for the Australian maritime industry.

Geoff Gronow ESM ED
Chairperson

Seafarers Safety Net Fund Levy

The levy rate payable by employers who employ or engage seafarers on prescribed ships has reduced from \$53 to \$35 per seafarer berth per quarter.

The new levy rate took effect on 1 April 2006 upon the commencement of the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Levy Amendment Regulations 2006 (No.1)*.

Sea Safe-Work Day 2006



To coincide with the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) World Day for Safety and Health at Work, Friday 28 April 2006 was designated Sea Safe-Work Day for the Australian maritime industry.

The Seacare Authority encouraged all employers and operators in the scheme to observe Sea Safe-Work Day and to undertake activities that promote and encourage awareness of working safely in the maritime sector.

The focus of this year's ILO World Day was reducing the number of work-related deaths each year, including those resulting from HIV/AIDS, and to make work decent by eliminating workplace stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS. Further information on the World Day can be obtained from the ILO website at: www.ilo.org/safework/safeday.

Sea Safe-Work Day represents an important opportunity to promote injury prevention strategies onboard vessels covered by the Seacare scheme as part of an internationally recognised safety day.

Seacare Standards Task Force

The Seacare Authority's Standards Task Force has prepared a draft regulatory proposal on entry and work in confined spaces. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has prepared draft regulations and a draft code of practice for manual handling based on the Authority's recommendations. Discussions have been held with DEWR and the Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council on how best to implement these proposals.

New Guide to the Assessment of the Degree of Permanent Impairment

With the approval of the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Seacare Authority introduced a new Permanent Impairment Guide on 1 March 2006.

The new Guide, or second edition, is based on the current American Medical Association's *Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment* (5th edition) and has been adapted from the new Comcare Guide which took effect at the same time.

The Seacare Guide (2nd edition) is substantially more comprehensive than the old guide and provides an accurate, clear and objective method for measuring all impairments likely to result from work related conditions. It details calibrated impairment ratings across the various organ systems, more extensive and comprehensive tables with specific measurements of impairment, and extensive instructions on how ratings may be applied or combined. New impairment tables have also been added for specific conditions and in many tables the maximum levels of impairment have been increased.

The new Guide is available from the Seacare website at: www.seacare.gov.au.

To assist in the implementation of the new Guide, Comcare is running a training program for Seacare stakeholders. The first course was held in Melbourne on 23 March 2006.

CPM 7th edition released

The *Comparative Performance Monitoring (CPM) 7th Report on Australian and New Zealand Occupational Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation Schemes* was released in January 2006. This latest CPM Report covers the five year period up to and including 2003-04 and provides a comparison of the Seacare scheme's performance with the other schemes and national averages.

The 7th CPM Report is available from www.workplace.gov.au/CPM or by contacting the Seacare Management Group.

Seacare website upgrade

The content of the Seacare website is monitored to ensure that all information is accessible and up to date. A new content management system is being implemented that will give the website a different look and feel and improve its functionality.

Employers' Return to Work Obligations

Employers are reminded of their obligations, under sections 49 & 50 of the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992*, to assess an injured employee's capability of undertaking a rehabilitation program and to arrange and provide for an approved rehabilitation program.

Under subsection 49(1), if an employee suffers an injury that lasts or is expected to last 28 days, the employee's employer must arrange for the assessment of the employee's capability of undertaking a rehabilitation program within 28 days after receiving notice of the injury.

Under section 50, if an employee is assessed as capable of undertaking a rehabilitation program, the employer must make arrangements with an approved program provider for the provision of an appropriate rehabilitation program.

The rehabilitation and return to work outcomes achieved within the scheme have been identified by the Seacare Authority as requiring greater emphasis and focus to improve performance. Further information on rehabilitation and return to work, including the Seacare Authority's best practice guide, is available on the Seacare website at: www.seacare.gov.au.



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SEACARE

2006

AWARDS & CONFERENCE 26 OCTOBER 2006

Dinner Speakers:



Peter Davidson



Jean Kittson

Seacare Conference and Awards Presentation Dinner will be held in Melbourne on **Thursday, 26 October 2006** at:
Sumac, South Wharf Road, Southbank on the Yarra River.

The Seacare Conference and Awards events are being held to coincide with Safe Work Australia Week, which runs nationally from 22-28 October.

Categories for the Seacare Awards 2006 are:

- Best Workplace Health and Safety Management System *
- Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue *
- Best Rehabilitation and Return to Work Program
- Best Individual Contribution to Workplace Health and Safety *

Details on the Seacare Awards & Conference will be distributed shortly, including Awards nomination forms and information on sponsorship opportunities.

* The winners of these Seacare Awards will be considered for the national Safe Work Australia Awards to be judged in early 2007.



Seacare Authority Appointments

In March 2006, Noel Swails stepped down as Deputy Chairperson of the Seacare Authority upon his retirement from the Australian Public Service.

At the February 2006 meeting of the Authority, the Chairperson and Members recorded their appreciation for Noel's support and advice and his skill in managing the Authority's activities.

Stewart Ellis, General Manager - Injury Management Comcare, has been appointed acting Deputy Chairperson of the Seacare Authority until 31 August 2006.

Seacare Management Group Staffing

Phil Beaumont has been appointed Manager of the Seacare Management Group following Alex O'Shea's move to Comcare's Compensation and Injury Management Policy Group.

David Bonny took up the Assistant Manager, Seacare Management Group position in February 2006. David has an extensive background in the Safety Policy area of Comcare including work on a range of national OHS issues.

Seacare Notices

Seacare Notices are issued to scheme employer contacts and published on the Seacare website at www.seacare.gov.au. Current notices include: 03/2006 – Maximum level of benefits; 02/2006 – Indexation of benefits; and 01/2006 – New Guide to the Assessment of the Degree of Permanent Impairment.

SEACARE CONTACTS

Members:

Mr Geoff Gronow	Chairperson
Mr Stewart Ellis	A/g Deputy Chairperson
Mr Martin Byrne	Employee Member
Mr Mick Doleman	Employee Member
Mr Peter Bremner	Employer Member
Mr Mal Hearnden	Employer Member
Mr Clive Davidson	Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Deputy Members:

Mr John Wydell	Deputy to Mr Byrne
Mr Paddy Crumlin	Deputy to Mr Doleman
Mr Trevor Griffett	Deputy to Mr Bremner
Mr Tony Caccamo	Deputy to Mr Hearnden
Mr Geoff Toomer	Deputy to Mr Davidson

Seacare Management Group:

Mr Phil Beaumont	Manager
Mr David Bonny	Assistant Manager

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