

International Offers of Assistance Development of Guidelines

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Presentation Topics

- Background
- Progress to date
- IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group – Update
- Organization of the Guidelines – 2 Sections
- Way Ahead

Background

- Deepwater Horizon Response highlighted some gaps in managing offers of assistance from International Partners within the U.S. response regimes.
- How best to request and search for the resources we needed? Who best to contact?
- How to sort through the many generous, unsolicited offers?
- How to manage the logistics once an offer is accepted
 - how to transfer the equipment, how to fund, how to manage the customs and coastal trading laws, etc?

Progress to Date

- IOSC 2011 Ad Hoc Workshop, May 2011 Portland OR
 - ~ 45 reps from government, industry, ROs, IMO, IOPC, ITOPF, IPIECA, etc
 - Validated the need for this type of guidelines
 - Outlined a series of issues to be considered during development
- U.S. presented concept to OPRC-HNS TG 12 for acceptance for an IMO product
 - Considered and Approved at MEPC 62, referred to OPRC-HNS TG

IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group – Update

- March 2012: Enthusiastic discussion at IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group
- ~ 16 countries and organizations agreed to join into a Correspondence Group to develop these guidelines
- Splinter Group had detailed discussion to outline proposed organization and key elements of Guidelines

Organization of the Guidelines – 2 Primary Focus Areas/Sections

IMO's OPRC-HNS TG delegates further refined the concept of the Guidelines into 2 primary sections or focus areas:

1. Equipment and Response Resources
2. Coordination and Management of Requests and Offers

Proposed Guidelines – Format and Content

Executive Summary

- FOCUS: Catastrophic Spill Event, beyond Local or Regional Capabilities (Tier 3, possibly Tier 2)
- Offers/Requests outside of and build on and link to existing national and regional agreements
- Acknowledge significant funding challenges may be problematic to the polluter pays presumption for incidents which are not covered by existing conventions and protocols.

Response Resource Section (1 of 2)

1. Acknowledge/Integrate/Identify existing Resource Databases.
2. Define resources (personnel and equipment) and resource types potentially necessary to support catastrophic spill response.
3. Recognize extraordinary resource needs anticipated by on-shore, near shore and offshore environments and include consideration of mechanical, chemical, biological, burning, aerial surveillance, monitoring, and incident management resources including both equipment and personnel.
4. Address/recognize equipment compatibility concerns.

Response Resource Section (2 of 2)

5. Address/recognize equipment and personnel logistical issues for mobilization, deployment and demobilization
6. Acknowledge/recognize personnel training and qualifications relative to operation of specialized equipment.
7. Acknowledge and refer to worker health and safety considerations.
8. Response Resources include equipment, personnel, technical experts, technologies, etc.

Coordination and Management of Requests and Offers Section (1 of 2)

1. Build on existing guidelines in place in various regions, including Bilateral and Mutual Aid Agreements.
2. Address roles of requestor's and provider's Foreign Affairs/ State Department in supporting government and industry response personnel.
3. Address relationship between spiller and government response personnel in requesting country - who initiates, who funds, who directs?
4. What is the role of requesting country's government in resolving customs and trade issues?

Coordination and Management of Requests and Offers Section (2 of 2)

5. What is the providing nation's role in overseeing/authorizing release of government owned and private sector equipment and personnel?
6. Address options available if requesting country is unable to fund.
7. How should offers of innovative technologies be processed and assessed - by the offering country/by the receiving country?
8. Several Types/Scenarios: Government to Government; Private to Government; Private to Private.
9. Other

Way Ahead

1. IMO OPRC-HNS TG Correspondence Group led by US
2. Draft outlines, prototype documents disseminated to correspondence group for comment and further development in early June.
3. Correspondence group conference call in early July to discuss draft and comments.
4. Second draft prepared and submitted to OPRC in early August for consideration at OPRC TG 14.
5. Aim for completion by TG 17 (SEP 2014)

** Reach out to key organizations, industry and other key stakeholders - *COMPREHENSIVE***

Questions?

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