



PERMANENT
TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE

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Brussels, 14 October 2019.

IMO FAL COMPENDIUM

- Revision and future maintenance of the IMO FAL Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic - Business

(Item III on the Agenda)

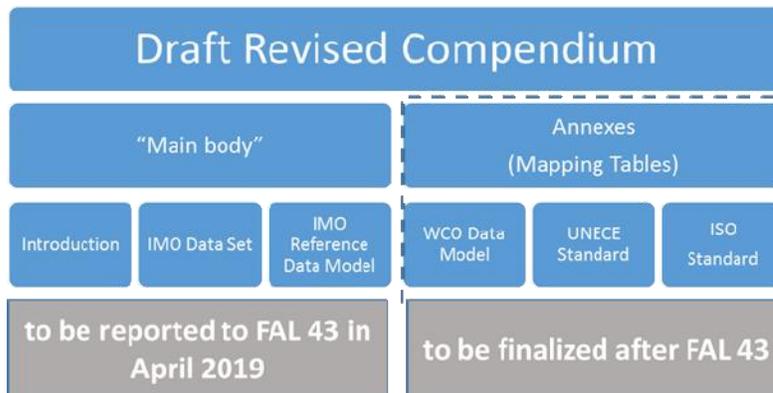
Background

1. The IMO Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic Business (Compendium) has been kept under review since 2013, whereby the FAL Committee of the IMO encouraged the use of modern information and communication technology and electronic exchange of information. As the technical maintenance of the Compendium requires specific IT technical knowledge and expertise, the area in which the IMO Secretariat is lacking sufficient resources and experience, WCO, taking into account its experience in maintaining the WCO Data Model (WCO DM) agreed to work with IMO to establish a mechanism of cooperation to enable the maintenance process.
2. The WCO action to support the work of the IMO was taken based on the guidance provided by the PTC at its 201st /202nd sessions in November 2013. During these Sessions, the PTC agreed with the proposal to involve the Data Model Projects Team (DMPT) more deeply in the management of the IMO FAL Compendium as this work would bring new opportunity for further alignment between WCO DM and the Compendium, thus facilitating maritime reporting processes.
3. Under this arrangement, the WCO worked on the technical maintenance of the message standard and the FAL Committee remained the competent body for policy making. Any technical improvements developed by the WCO would be passed to the FAL Committee for its endorsement. This mechanism was approved by the FAL Committee and the WCO PTC. An overview of the relevant decisions regarding this agreement is presented in Annex I to this document.

4. The IMO FAL Focus Group (the Group), operated under the umbrella of the DMPT, was established to carry out the work on the maintenance and revision of the Compendium. The members of the Group include Netherlands France, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine, the United States, WCO, IMO, UNECE, ISO, EC/EMSA, BIMCO, and IPCSA.

Finalization of the draft revised IMO FAL Compendium

5. In January 2019, the Group finalized the draft revised Compendium, including an IMO Data Set and an IMO Reference Data Model, which was submitted and presented by WCO in the 43rd session of the IMO Facilitation Committee from 8 to 12 April 2019 (FAL 43). FAL 43 discussed and approved the revised Compendium. The approved revised Compendium is presented in Annex II to this document.
6. In parallel, the WCO DMPT, the UNECE and the ISO are requested to work on mapping their own standards to the IMO Reference Data Model. The mappings to the relevant standards of WCO, UNECE and ISO would be linked in the annexes of the Compendium, as illustrated in the figure below.



7. At its meeting in May 2019, the DMPT received and processed Data Maintenance Requests (DMR) to incorporate changes resulted from the mapping between the WCO DM to the IMO Reference Data Model to the WCO DM. During the meeting, the DMPT approved all required changes. Following this approval, the revised Derived Information Package (DIP) for IMO FAL Compendium that is fully in line with the IMO FAL Compendium will be included in the new version v.3.9.0 of the WCO DM, planned to be published by the end of 2019.
8. The revised DIP for the IMO FAL Compendium enables Customs and relevant maritime authorities to establish a harmonized environment, such as Maritime Single Window, to facilitate efficient maritime and Customs reporting and clearance formalities.

Future maintenance of the IMO FAL Compendium and the IMO Reference Data Model

9. During FAL 43, the IMO FAL committee expressed its appreciation to the WCO for its excellent work, a significant result of which is the draft of the revised Compendium approved at this session.
10. Acknowledging the broad acceptance of the outcome of the revision of the Compendium and the requests expressed by Members of the IMO to further extend the

scope of this output to data beyond the declarations in the FAL Convention (e.g. to data on health information, port logistic, ship certificates, IMO safety and environmental information, e-navigation, stowaways etc.), FAL 43 agreed, as subject to approval by IMO Council, that the responsibility for the function of maintaining the Compendium in future should be moved from WCO to IMO.

11. Under this decision:
 - the further maintenance of the compendium would be undertaken by a group of organizations and other interested parties coordinated by the IMO Secretariat, using existing IMO's personnel and resources;
 - the scope of the work of this group would include any further work related to the review of the Compendium;
 - meetings of the group would as a rule be held in future in IMO headquarters or in any other location which has been agreed on by the members. Distant participation options would be also provided; and
 - the four organizations (IMO, UNECE, WCO and ISO) would establish a Memorandum of Understanding or similar instrument to establish the basic principles for the maintenance of the compendium, e.g. scope of the maintenance and responsibilities of the organizations.

12. This arrangement would be valid for the current compendium related to the FAL Convention. Any further data-modelling work would be discussed by the group in the future, to decide whether it could be undertaken under this arrangement, or by other means, including involving other stakeholders, such as International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA), or others.

13. During the discussion of FAL 43, WCO recognized the need of IMO to further extend the scope of the IMO Reference Data Model and also acknowledged the request of IMO to establish a sustainable work arrangement for the further maintenance work under the responsibility of IMO, in close cooperation with WCO, UNECE and ISO, as well as with future stakeholders. Furthermore, WCO emphasized its strong will to further contribute to the maintenance work on the Compendium and the IMO Reference Data Model.

14. Considering that the decision of FAL 43 has an impact on the existing arrangements between WCO and IMO, as approved by FAL Committee and WCO Committees in the past, WCO expressed its reservation that the details of the arrangement need to be elaborated between the related Organizations and formally approved by relevant WCO Committees, namely the IMSC and PTC.

15. Subject to entry into force of the partnership agreement with WCO, ISO and UNECE and all subject to the approval of the IMO Council, FAL 43 agreed to establish an intersessional group of technical experts, called IMO Expert Group on Data Harmonization (EGDH). The EGDH would be tasked to:
 - continue work related to the maintenance of the IMO Compendium;
 - consider data elements beyond the FAL Convention, taking into account the priority list of data elements in Annex III, giving priority to data sets with priority 1;
 - commence work on World Health Organization (WHO) reporting and acknowledgement receipts; and

- report progress of its works to FAL 44.
16. The following additional intersessional meetings of the IMO Expert Group on Data Harmonization in 2019 and 2020 were approved by FAL 43:
- the first meeting of the Group, to be held in the November 2019;
 - the second meeting of the Group, to be held back-to-back with FAL 44, in April 2020; and
 - the third meeting of the Group, to be held in the second half of 2020.
17. The IMO decision to establish the EGDH changes the role of the WCO in the maintenance of the IMO FAL Compendium, from the primary organization responsible for, into one of contributors to the maintenance of the Compendium. As a result of the establishment of the EGDH, the DMPT IMO FAL Focus Group did not convene at the 55th Meeting of the DMPT in October 2019.
18. Being a contributor, the WCO may not need to engage in all of the IMO FAL Compendium maintenance work, but rather select the work items that concern the interest of WCO Members, such as the work items that relate to regulatory processes in Single Window environment. In this regard, at its 55th Meeting in October 2019, the DMPT examined the future plan of the IMO to incorporate additional dataset. The DMPT noted that most of the proposed new datasets concern business to business (B2B) exchange of information that might not be relevant to the WCO and the DMPT, except the dataset on the WHO reporting (WCO Declaration of Health) and acknowledgement receipts.

Action Requested

19. The PTC is requested to:
- take note of the revised IMO FAL Compendium and the work that has been carried out by the DMPT to map the WCO Data Model to the IMO Reference Data Model;
 - take note of the change of the role of the WCO, from the primary organization responsible for, into a contributor to the maintenance of the IMO FAL Compendium;
 - share their experience in establishing cooperation with maritime authorities in the area of maritime reporting and clearance; and
 - discuss and provide further guidance on the future work of the WCO relating to its role in the maintenance of the Compendium, the IMO Data Set and the IMO Reference Data model as contributor, as well as relating to the area of Customs–Maritime cooperation in general.
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