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Ref. T3/3.01

FAL.6/Circ.13  
11 July 2005

## **SHIP/PORT INTERFACE**

### **Facilitation in avoiding safety threatening conditions**

1 The Facilitation Committee, at its thirty-second session (4 to 8 July 2005), was informed of a number of incidents, wherein public authorities for various reasons refused or delayed the movement of material, equipment, fuel and any other supplies to ships essential for their safe operations. Consequently, ships had proceeded to sea in unsafe conditions, often presenting a hazard to other ships and the marine environment.

2 The Committee noted that the safety of life at sea and the protection of the environment are contractual obligations of States and need to be discharged in a prudent manner. The Committee also noted that States should conduct themselves in a manner which is consistent with the purpose, aims and objectives of the Organization and also with the aims and objectives of the IMO treaties to which they are party.

3 The Committee agreed that public authorities should not unreasonably prevent, except in the case of judicial proceedings, the delivery of essential supplies to a ship.

4 The Committee acknowledged that the FAL Convention may need to contain specific provisions for facilitating the movement to a ship of materials, equipment, fuels and any other supplies which are essential for safe operation. Contracting Governments to the Convention may wish to submit proposals to the Committee to amend the Convention accordingly.

5 Member Governments and international organizations are urged to bring to the attention of the Committee any incidents when the supply to a ship of materials, equipment, fuels and any other supplies, has been unreasonably withheld by public authorities.

6 Member Governments are urged to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.

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