

## **FMA with a very favourable result from the flag state audit by IMO**

**During the previous week a team of three members from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has audited the Faroese Maritime Authority to assess the compliance with IMO regulations and requirements by the flag state.**

As an autonomous part of the Danish Kingdom, the Faroe Islands is associate member of the IMO. This implies the right to attend meetings in the various committees and sub committees with the right to speak, although not the right to vote. Thus, contributions from the Faroe Islands for the improvement of safety at sea are promoted in co-operation with the Danish Maritime Authority.

The constitutional arrangement implies that the IMO conventions are ratified by Denmark with a reservation with respect to the Faroe Islands. Following a separate resolution in the Faroese government the reservation may be lifted in IMO – or not, depending on the decision of the Faroese government in each case.

The Faroe Islands has ratified most of the IMO conventions. Hence, the scope of the mentioned audit encompasses the so-called IMO instruments, i.e. SOLAS 74, SOLAS Protocol 78, SOLAS Protocol 88, STCW95, LL 66 & LL Protocol, and Tonnage 69 and their implementation in Faroese legislation.

A number of institutions of the Faroese administration have participated, i.e.:

- The Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Faroese Maritime Authority and the Telecommunication Authority – as responsible for the safety at sea and the technical equipment on board ships.
- The Ministry of Interior, the Environment Agency and the Office of Public Works – as responsible for pollution prevention response and environment contingency in port and on board ships.
- The Ministry of Fisheries, the Fisheries Inspections and MRCC/Tórshavnar radio as responsible of the search and rescue services.
- Ministry of Education as responsible for education of sailing personnel.

The decision to advance this audit has been made with a view to it becoming a requirement by IMO to all member states by 2015.

The institutions had prepared well ahead for the audit, which encompassed an examination of the structure of the Faroese administration, delegation of responsibility, legal system and the daily co-operation between the ministries and the institutions.

This morning the audit report was handed over to Vilhjálmur Gregoriussen, managing director of the Sjóvinnustýrið. Vilhjálmur Gregoriussen has been in charge of the co-ordination of the audit. In this capacity he had the honour of receiving the report and its conclusion from the international authority in a small reception.

The conclusion of the report is very favourable indeed. **The Faroese maritime administration is well prepared and is in a good position to offer its flag state services in the international shipping market.**

With no more than two minor non-conformities the Faroese administration has proven very capable. Furthermore, the report points to a number of best practice attribute, which show the advantages of a small administration with a close and efficient co-operation between the various ministries and institutions.

When received from IMO the official report will be published, i.a. in our web site.

Tórshavn, 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

Tommy Petersen, (sign.)  
Director General