

Further Action Taken for Disseminating the “Ship’s Tsunami evacuation manual”

1. “Ship’s Tsunami evacuation manual”

Approximately 36,000 ships were damaged by the big tsunami in the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred on March 11, 2011. Moreover, the probability of occurrence of the Nankai Trough Earthquake within 30 years from now is estimated to be around 70% (Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (as of January 1, 2012)). In light of this fact, it is important for ship operators to take tsunami protection measures at all times.

Based on the above discussion, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism is working on promotion of “Ship’s Tsunami evacuation manual” for the ship operators.

“Ship’s Tsunami evacuation manual” is a manual in which measures to evacuate the ship by assuming the invasion of tsunami in advance are summarized, which is prepared for every ship in advance, and which is used by the captain to determine the method of evacuation.

“A Handbook prepared as a tsunami evacuation manual for Vessel Operators” in which the information required for the manual, its method for acquisition, and the response flow of the ship at the occurrence of tsunami was recorded as an action for creating “Ship’s Tsunami evacuation manual” for the ship operators up till now, and it was published in March 2014. Further, a “Model manual” by which the tsunami evacuation manual could be prepared was created only by filling the required matter so as to reduce the burden of creating a manual on operator, and it was published in June 2015. Moreover, at the time of opportunities, such as a briefing session, familiarization of tsunami evacuation manual has been carried out and along with that a tsunami evacuation drill was executed on the basis of the created manual and the manual was called for review.

2. Actions to be Taken in FY 2016

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism developed a new manual style “Response against Tsunami Checklist” as a further action for the ship operators and published it in July. “Response against Tsunami Checklist” contains only the main point which is necessary for tsunami evacuation, so that the small and medium scale ship operators who had difficulty in creating the manual could implement the measures for tsunami more easily. Further, the Ministry developed a foreign language version of “Response against Tsunami Checklist” by which the tsunami response could be smoothly implemented in the foreign ships which suffered from many damages in the Great East Japan Earthquake and published it in September.

Moreover, briefing sessions were held following as be held in FY 2015 in the whole Japan, and “Ship’s Tsunami evacuation manual” and “Response against Tsunami Checklist” were made public and along with that, a tsunami evacuation drill was implemented on the basis of the created manual and the review of the manual were called for.



“Response against Tsunami Checklist”

3. Future Actions

Continuously, by promotion of improvement in tsunami disaster awareness for operators and understanding and development of "Ship's Tsunami evacuation manual", tsunami evacuation measures for ship will be promoted. Particularly, in the view of Tokyo Olympics and Para-Olympics to be held in 2020, the usage of foreign language version of "Response against Tsunami Checklist" will be encouraged through the shipping agents in order to familiarize it to the foreign ships stopping in Japan.

Moreover, there will be briefing sessions for the operators and shipping agents and along with the familiarization of "Ship's Tsunami evacuation manual" and "Response against Tsunami Checklist" implementation of tsunami evacuation drill will also be requested.

Further, based on the result of drill, awareness for reviewing "Ship's Tsunami evacuation manual" regularly will be promoted and the effectiveness of the developed manual will be continuously improved.