Meeting # 66
Malta, September 30, 2015.

1. Opening & Roll Call

Simon opens the meeting at 09:30 hrs and welcomes the participants, thanking our hosts, Malta Freeport. The participants introduce themselves.

2. Welcome

Welcome speech by Mr. Jesmond Baldacchino of Malta Freeport. He apologizes for the absence of Mr. Alex Montebello, who is on a business trip abroad.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of meeting # 65 in Malmo were adopted without any amendments.

4. Agenda

Two new items were added to the draft agenda: Presentation by Sue Probert (see item 5 of the agenda) and a presentation of a new weighing system by Riccardo Hilpert of Tally Tech (item 8).

5. Relationship SMDG and UN/Cefact

Sue Probert explains the relationship and procedures of the UN/Cefact Transport & Logistics Domain, where she is Domain Co-ordinator. There are links to IMO and other organizations with a global scope. It seems that WCO (World Customs Organization) takes over the maintenance of the IMO FAL compendium messages for ships security.
She also mentions the MSW (Maritime Single Window) to be in force latest 1-6-2016 (EU directive 2010/65). For those interested more information can be retrieved from the PROTECT website: http://www.protect-group.org/index.php/directive-2010-65/
Download her presentations from the SMDG website.

6. VGM and VERMAS

VGM (Verified Gross Mass of containers)
Yesterday this subject was discussed at length during the sub-group meeting and several sub-group meetings have taken place during the last few months. The subgroup now has >30 members from many organizations and the topic is considered to be an important and confusing subject. Jost presents the results.

Recapitulation:
IMO's Maritime Safety Committee approved changes to the Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS) convention regarding a mandatory container weight verification requirement on shippers.
(See: http://www.worldshipping.org/industry-issues/safety/cargo-weight).

This means containers of which the Verified Gross Mass (VGM = gross weight of cargo + container tare) cannot be positively identified may not be loaded on board of vessels. Implementation of this convention to be before 1-July-2016.
The Shipper is the responsible party and the Line must make sure that the VGM for all containers to be loaded are known and verified, otherwise a loading instruction may not be given to the terminal.

The discussions in SMDG are about two subjects:
1. Procedural: who will do what and when? This subject is important and is still far from clear. We are also waiting for national legislation in the various countries on this subject.

2. Technical: how can we transmit the VGM and the details about the authorized party in the message types under control of SMDG? The VGM subgroup initially concentrated on this subject, adapting the existing messages to the requirements of including the Verified Weight in the existing messages. It became also clear that a new message was needed for the purpose of transmitting the VGM weight between parties.

It was decided that, in order to be able to implement the necessary systems update in time we must define the specifications as soon as possible. We must also try to avoid structural changes to message types or the need for a new message.

In the meantime a new message (VERMAS) has been developed, which can be used to transmit the VGM together with details about the authorized party.

It was decided that the work to be done will be undertaken by the following members:
BAPLIE/MOVINS 2.x and 3.x versions: Jost
COXXXX 2.x versions: Paul
IFTXXX: Yoshi and Robert

At the specific request of all members also the Container Messages in use, which are based on the D95B UN/Edifact directory, will be adjusted to include VGM details. Most, if not all, members are using the D95B messages and upgrading to the D00B directory means a lot of work.

Download Jost's presentation from the SMDG meeting page.

Message Validation Portal
Jost also proposes to do a trial with an ePortal for validation of SMDG messages. Such a portal can be used by members to check if messages comply with the definitions of the message types. It appears that Jost has a proposal from GEFEG, who are doing such an ePortal for other organizations already. It was decided to gather more information to see what activities are necessary to implement such a portal. Initially this will be free of charge but in the future a small fee may be charged by GEFEG for this service.

VERMAS
This new message was presented by Michael Schroeder. You can download his presentation from the SMDG meeting page.
A remark was made that the seal number must be included.

IFTMBF and IFTMIN
Yoshi presents the results of his work in cooperation with Robert concerning the implementation of the VGM requirements in these two messages.
Download their presentation from the SMDG meeting page.

7. BAPLIE and MOVINS

Jost presents the latest status of the developments.
Download his presentation from the SMDG meeting page.

8. Weighing System

Riccardo Hilpert of Tally Tech presents a new weighting system developed by Tally Tech. This new method is based on 4 jacks, one on each corner of the container. The weight is then transmitted to and displayed on a smart phone APP.

9. Container Messages

Paul presents the latest status of the messages. He adapted the message documentation of the container messages based on the D00B directory. This documentation (version 2.1) is now available in the Documents section of the SMDG website. The existing 2.0 documentation was moved to the 'Older Documentation' section.
He is now working on the changes for the VGM data in the message documentation of the container messages based on the D95B directory. This documentation will also be published on the SMDG website as soon as possible.

10. Code Lists

Jasmin presents the current status. It appears that it is a lot of work to maintain the codes lists and she asks members for their active support. Several members reacted positively and they will liaise with Jasmin how this can be organized.

11. IFTSAI

Robert gives latest status update. There are no issues at the moment

12. TPFREP

Michael explains the current status.
Download his presentation from the SMDG meeting page.
CMA-CGM express their satisfaction. They believe the implementation of TFREP has saved them so far approx. 250,000 man-hours!

13. IFTMIN

Paul gives latest news about this message for 'Container Inland Transport Instruction').
Download his presentation from the SMDG meeting page.

Question: Will SMDG now adopt this message and maintain the guideline? To be discussed during next meeting.

14. INVOIC

Robert gives latest status. There are no issues and all works fine.

15. Next meeting

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 (Subgroups) and Wednesday, April 20, 2016 (Plenary). Our host this time will be Maersk Copenhagen. Thank you!

16. Future Meetings

Our September/October 2016 meeting will be held in Oakland/USA hosted by XVELA. Thank you!
Simon is in contact with TOPAS USA (Terminal Operators Port Authorities Subcommittee) to find out if we can have a half day combined meeting SMDG/TOPAS.

17. Any Other Business

Jost: Wants to know members ideas about 'XML messages'. Topic for next meeting.
Gerry: Please send your presentations to me for publication on the website.

18. Closing

The chairman closed the meeting, thanking our hosts, Malta Freeport for their excellent facilities and organization.

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