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BBCA Legal is an international law firm established more than 40 years ago involved in all aspects of maritime and road transport, insurance and commercial law. It currently has lawyers qualified in various jurisdictions, fluent in Spanish, English, French, Italian and Catalan.

The firms' monthly newsletter aims to share relevant aspects of the transport industry, in order to keep our clients updated with the latest events of our common market.

In the June edition we address SOLAS amendment on mooring operations that will be reviewed and approved this month by the Maritime Safety Committee, as well as Spain's accession to the Cape Town agreement. The allowance of electric scooters in Germany is also discussed, due to our clients' frequent queries about accidents related to this modern but controversial way of transport.

Maritime

New Safety Regulations for mooring operations – SOLAS amendment and guidelines to be reviewed

Ships mooring operations continues to be one of the work places in which crew members and shore-based mooring personnel are exposed to higher risks. Accidents are frequent, and fatalities are reported annually.

Therefore, in this month, the Maritime Safety Committee will review and approve the draft amendments to SOLAS Regulation II-1/3 on Towing and mooring equipment, including two new guidelines for its application.



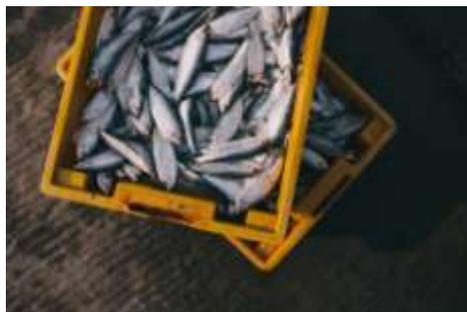
The draft amendments includes new regulations on design of mooring arrangements and the selection of appropriate mooring equipment and fittings for safe mooring and on inspection and maintenance of mooring equipment, as well as a new guidance on shipboard towing.

Spain acceded to IMO's Cape Town Agreement on fishing vessel safety

The Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the implementation of the Provision of Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 provides a platform for improving fishers' safety at sea and combating IUU fishing by facilitation better control of fishing vessel safety by flag, port and coastal states.

Spain became the latest country to accede to the treaty, among Belgium, the Congo, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and South Africa, boosting the number of vessels needed for entry into force.

The Cape Town Agreement will enter into force 12 months after at least 22 States, with 3,600 fishing vessels of 24 m in length operating in high seas, have become contracting states.



Road Transportation

Germany's upper house of Parliament allows e-scooters on roads

Electric scooters can be on German roads by June, despite the arduous debates on road safety and lack of space for cyclists in cycle lanes. The text, approved by the Bundersrat, enables battery powered scooters to circulate on roads and cycle paths, but forbids them from being used on the pavements. It also set the minimum age to drive them at 14, and must respect a 20 km/ h speed limit.



The e-scooters supporters argue ecological benefits of their allowance, as people are persuaded to leave their cars at home to use alternative methods of transportation.

However, the opposition has stated their rejection to the measure. On the one hand, Car lobbies have shown their displeasure over the regulation due to the existing traffic inconveniences, arguing that they already struggle with cyclists maneuvers in the streets. On the other hand, cyclist associations argues that Germany's cycle lanes are not sufficient to cope with the existing traffic.



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