

has three divisions: the Board of Steamship Inspection, Nautical Services and Air Cushion Vehicles.

The Board of Steamship Inspection is composed of all certified steamship inspectors employed by the ministry. The headquarters component develops socially and economically feasible standards for the design and construction of ships, their machinery, fittings and equipment, and translates these standards into statutes and regulations to be followed by builders and operators of vessels. The board establishes procedures to ensure that these standards are met.

The Nautical Services Division develops standards for the following: methods of loading, unloading and stowing of cargo; quantities of cargo; work practices; number and qualification of personnel, and discipline aboard ship; and navigating and operating procedures including traffic routing. The division operates the registry of ships and administers the licensing of small vessels. It is responsible for reviewing measurement of ships and protecting the interests of the owners of wrecked ships and their cargo and the interest of the Crown in unclaimed wreck. The division provides a service for the engagement of seamen and assistance in disputes over wages and discharge.

The Air Cushion Vehicles Division prepares domestic regulations for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of air cushion vehicles. It ensures that domestic regulations concerning air cushion vehicles crews and maintenance engineers are implemented.

The Fleet Systems Branch has responsibility for approximately 160 vessels of various sizes designed to perform various functions. These vessels are all attached to Coast Guard regions in accordance with the type of work and workload in each region. The headquarters component provides policies, standards and guidelines for the operation of the fleet. It also has operating responsibility for the portion of the fleet which operates in the Arctic in the summer months. The Canadian Coast Guard College at Point Edward, NS is responsible for developing ships' officers for the Canadian Coast Guard Fleet.

The Telecommunications and Electronics Branch provides expert knowledge in communications and computers, quality assurance, guidance systems and ship electronics and avionics to Canadian Coast Guard line operations.

The Pilotage Branch establishes national technical standards and conducts research to ensure that standards are maintained. It prescribes standards for health, uniform financial reporting procedures, procedures for hearings held by the four regional pilotage authorities and recommends the establishment of compulsory pilotage areas.

The Legislation Branch is responsible for certain activities of a legal and legislative nature and for participation in Law of the Sea matters. It is also involved in amendments to the Maritime Pollution Claims Fund and in the development of the Maritime Code which will eventually replace the existing Canada Shipping Act.

The Office of the Senior Marine Officer, Planning, provides the secretariat for the Plans Development Review Committee (PDRC), the senior Coast Guard committee in the Comprehensive Planning System, and is responsible for the coordination of Coast Guard planning. The PDRC sets Coast Guard objectives, strategies and priorities, develops policies and takes decisions on the program forecast, estimates and budgets.

The Senior Marine Officer, Emergencies, is responsible for the development of contingency plans; the development, testing, acquisition and allocation of certain pollution clean-up equipment; advice and assistance at the time of a pollution incident; and certain wartime activities.

The Senior Marine Officer, Casualty Investigations, is responsible for developing accident investigation procedures and carrying out fact finding and preliminary inquiries according to the provisions of the Canada Shipping Act.