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SRtP 2.0 – The Evolution of the Safe Return to Port concept

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In 2010 IMO (International Maritime Organisation) introduced new rules in SOLAS with the aim of intrinsically increasing the safety of passenger ships. This requirement is achieved by providing "safe areas" for passengers and "essential services" for allowing ships to Safely Return to Port (SRtP). The entry into force of these rules has changed the design of passenger ships. In this respect big effort has been done by the shipbuilding industry to address design issues related to the impact on failure analysis of the complex interactions among systems. Today the research activities are focused to face operational matters in the design stage. This change in research focus was necessary because the human factor and the ship operation itself after a casualty on board may have a big impact on the design of the ship and the systems. Also the management of the passengers after a casualty is becoming a major topic for safety. This paper presents the state of the art of the Italian knowledge, addressed to safety improvement and design reliability, in the field of system engineering applied to passenger ships. An overview of the present tools and methodologies will be presented together with future focuses in the research activity.

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