

This document is a translation of the original assessment in Swedish by SHK of the response to the recommendation. In case of discrepancies between this translation and the Swedish original text, the Swedish text shall prevail in the interpretation of the assessment.

Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure

Assessment of recommendation response from the Government Offices of Sweden

On 18 January 2023, the Swedish Accident Investigation Authority (SHK) published a final report (SHK 2023:01) into the fire on the vessel ALMIRANTE STORNI that occurred in December 2021 off Gothenburg.

In the report, SHK directed two safety recommendations at the Swedish Government (SHK 2023:01, R1 and R2).

The Swedish Government was recommended to:

- Investigate and, where necessary, take the action required to ensure the efficient accommodation of ships in need of assistance.
- Investigate and, where necessary, take action to bring about the legislative changes required in order to ensure that affected municipalities are included in the work to draw up plans for the accommodation of ships in need of assistance.

The Government Offices has responded to the safety recommendation and has principally stated the following. Work in this area is taking place in close partnership with the Swedish Transport Agency, which is the regulatory authority in the field. The assessment is that it should be possible for the Transport Agency's work to form the basis of further work.

The investigation of the fire on ALMIRANTE STORNI shows that it took a long time before it was possible to make the necessary decisions. The reasons for this included the lack of plans for managing this type of occurrence, but also because there was no one who was responsible for actions at a level that encompassed multiple agencies. It was also possible to establish that there was, to a large extent, no regulations governing how authorities and other parties are to act in the event of this type of occurrence. Furthermore, the assessment is made that plans and clear decision-making procedures for accommodating ships in a place of refuge could have made the management of this occurrence more efficient.

It is positive that in its response the Government Offices states that the Transport Agency's work to draw up plans will form the basis of further work. Nevertheless, the issues that the investigation brought to the fore stretch outside of the area for which the Transport Agency is responsible. Consequently, SHK has directed recommendations at the Government. The Government Offices' response does not provide more detail about how future work will be conducted. Nor does it state how issues that are outside of the area for which the Transport Agency is responsible will be dealt with. Consequently, the safety recommendations to the Government can only be deemed partly implemented (Concluded – partially satisfactory response).

Best regards,

Kristina Börjevik Kovaniemi
Chair Accident Investigations