



## **MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES**

### **Summary of the Joint Meeting of the Salvage and Marine Insurance & General Average Committees**

**Fall 2023**

This joint meeting addressed the risks of Electric Vehicle (EV) fires on vessels, and the best practices for mitigating those risks. The committees also discussed potential projects for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MLAUS.

Mr. William Leshaeve, Senior Naval Architect from Brookes Bell LLP, gave a presentation on EV fires, which included: the different types of EV batteries and their fire risks; the challenges of responding to EV fires; recent case studies of EV fires on vessels; and recommendations for the safe carriage of EVs on vessels. Recent cases of EV fires on vessels have exposed challenges in risk mitigation, detection, response, and removal. The committees addressed potential solutions to some of these issues, which included: retrofitting vessels with passive fire-fighting arrangements; enabling vessels for the monitoring of EV battery health; limiting EV battery charge prior to carriage; addressing limited port capabilities for the charging of EVs; alternative fire fighting capabilities/mechanisms onboard vessels; and, the need for increased coordination to fire fighting capabilities ashore to ensure safe and effective response to EV fires aboard docked vessels.

The presentation included commentary on the best practices and recommendations for the safe carriage of EVs on vessels, which was recently developed and released by the International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI). Attendees discussed the IUMI guidelines for the safe carriage of EVs; how underwriters may consider whether the IUMI guidelines are implemented; and, the challenges and opportunities for implementing the IUMI guidelines on existing vessels. The committees also discussed the role of regulatory bodies, internationally and domestically, in developing clear and consistent regulations for the transport of EVs.

The Salvage and Insurance committees are pleased to have had this opportunity to jointly discuss the challenges and potential solutions related to the transport of EVs on vessels. The committees recognize the importance of collaboration in ensuring the safety of crews, vessels, and cargo and welcome input from our members to further this end.