

**SHIP SAFETY DIVISION****International Safety Management (ISM)**

To all shipowners and shipmanagers
of German vessels

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Your Ref., Your Letter of

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Our Re. (Please indicate in your reply)

II 59-3 /

Date

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Study on the impact of the ISM Code and its effectiveness in the enhancement of safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment

Dear Sirs,

the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the IMO agreed that, after the second implementation phase of the ISM Code on 1 July 2002, an analysis to assess the impact of the ISM Code on the safety of ships should be carried out to provide an obvious indication of its contribution to the enhancement of safety and quality of shipping.

In order to collect relevant data and to analyse the impact of the ISM Code, the IMO established a Group of Independent Experts selected from administrations, organizations, academia and the shipping industry.

The Group developed and circulated four questionnaires for shipboard personnel, shore-based personnel, shipping companies and administrations.

Based on the received responses to the questionnaires, the Group concluded that:

1. where the ISM Code is embraced as a positive step toward efficiency through a safety culture, tangible positive benefits are evident;
2. ISM Code compliance could be made easier through a reduction in the administrative process by:
 - stream-lining and reducing the paper work that supports ISM compliance, particularly the SMS;
 - greater use of technology and IT to reduce paperwork;
 - identifying common areas in the ISM Code and for example the ISPS Code and integrating documentary requirements;
 - motivating seafarers to use the reporting and monitoring systems in the improvement of safety management systems;

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- involving seafarers in the development and continuous improvement of ISM manuals;
- increased integrated training for all concerned;
- exploring measures to reduce the cost of compliance; and
- improving ISM compliance monitoring and developing performance indicators.

The Group recommends that:

1. a further study should be undertaken, at a later date, specifically to examine:
 - cause and effect between ISM implementation and flag State safety record;
 - the relationship between PSC and ISM compliance; and
 - whether textual changes in the requirements of the Code could make compliance easier and lead to an improved safety culture,
2. in response to data produced for this study:
 - methods to streamline the implementation of the Code through technology and increased use of IT should be explored;
 - the alignment of ISM and ISPS in shipboard documentation should be considered;
 - a reduction in paperwork should be encouraged;
 - guidelines for administrations should be revised to make them more user friendly; and
 - new guidelines to assist companies to implement the Code should be developed,
3. the results of the study be given widespread publicity across the industry in order to show how positive attitudes to ISM can yield tangible operational, financial and safety benefits.

In the appendix you find the complete text of this study to your information and for further use.

Best regards
Ship-Safety-Division
International Safety Management (ISM)

by order

T.Berger

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