



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 138 of 8th July 2013

To:	All Surveyors/Auditors
Applicable to flag:	All Flags
Subject:	ISC Guidelines for Safety Culture
Reference:	International Chamber of Shipping

ISC Guidelines for Safety Culture

The new International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) Guidelines, being distributed free of charge throughout the industry, were launched in June and sponsored by ICS, for Governments attending the IMO Symposium on the Future of Ship Safety in London. The guidelines are intended to provide some basic advice to companies on the successful implementation of an effective safety culture. This covers the vital need for all concerned, at sea and ashore, to understand the relationship between unsafe acts and serious incidents that may result with loss of life. In particular our brochure emphasizes the need to change behavior and to avoid negative attitudes and complacency.

The new ICS brochure explains that there are three essential components to developing a safety culture:

- 1- commitment from the top,
- 2- measuring performance, and then
- 3- modifying behavior.

The brochure also stresses the importance of accident and 'near miss' reporting, and the establishment of a 'just culture' approach whereby shipping company personnel are encouraged to provide essential safety related information whenever something might have gone wrong, but without fear of punishment.

With the objective of improving safety and pollution prevention, the ISM Code requires the company to ensure that the SMS includes procedures to investigate and analyse 'non-conformities, accidents and hazardous situations'.

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Within the context of a 'just culture' it is essential that the company clearly defines the circumstances under which they will guarantee a non-disciplinary outcome and confidentiality. It is important that companies provide training and information about their approach to adopting a 'just culture' for sea staff, as well as for shore management and superintendents.

Repeated analysis demonstrates that serious accidents in shipping are nearly always due to a failure to follow established procedures. The goal is to ensure that all company personnel believe in safety, think safety and are committed to safety.

REFERENCES:

-International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) Guidelines

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

-Implementing an Effective Safety Culture

Kindest Regards,
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