Improved to Include Energy Management Systems

Recently released, the ABS Guide for Marine Health, Safety, Quality, Environmental and Energy Management (HSQEEn Guide) was developed to be used as a tool for shipowners and operators to enhance their marine management practices to further support responsible ship operation, prevent pollution and improve energy performance. The Guide is intended for companies operating all types of ships. Companies and vessels certified to the ABS HSQEEn Guide are able to differentiate themselves by demonstrating that they operate under higher standards than those outlined within the ISM Code. The requirements are stated in general terms in order to apply to a wide variety of ship operations and management styles.

The requirements of the HSQEEn Guide have been marinized and are largely derived from the sound management system principles reflected in the requirements of OHSAS 18001 (occupational health and safety), the ISM Code, ISO 9001 (quality), ISO 14001 (environmental) and ISO 50001 (energy). ABS has also included additional requirements that are believed to enhance marine management systems.

Key Benefits for HSQEEn Certification

- Differentiate from competitors by demonstrating due diligence to accepted standards that are above and beyond regulatory compliance
- Increase operational efficiencies through improved performance and continual improvement, positively affecting the company's bottom line
- Reduce costs and effort by using a single integrated audit that can lead to multiple certifications
- Meet vendor acceptance criteria for most major shipping and energy clientele

The ABS HSQEEn Guide has been broadened in scope to incorporate energy management system (EnMS) requirements. Implementing EnMS requirements should lead to reductions in costs, greenhouse gas emissions and other adverse environmental impacts through the systematic management of energy use. Improved energy performance helps organizations better manage their energy sources and energy-related assets, thus reducing both energy costs and consumption. Conformance with the ISO 50001 requirements also helps companies prepare for a carbon economy and demonstrates corporate responsibility towards sustainable economic growth.
Implementing ABS HSQEEn Requirements

Shipowners and operators must comply with the ISM Code requirements which serve as the foundation for developing their management systems. In addition, many may choose to implement any combination of the requirements found in the HSQEEn Guide that are suitable to their goals, objectives and concerns. ABS encourages companies to consider implementing the Guide's requirements in their entirety as a comprehensive approach to health, safety, quality, environmental and energy management.

Receiving HSQEEn Certification

Certification to the ABS HSQEEn Guide is administered in the same manner as ISM Code certification. Shoreside facilities and vessels are typically assessed in conjunction with the usual audits prescribed for ISM Code certification. Once company determines the scope of certification, it should be implemented across all vessels in the fleet. At least one vessel of each type should be presented as a sample and maintain certification to the same scope of certification as the company's office.

Types of Certification

A Certificate of Company Compliance (CCC) is issued certifying successful compliance of the company to the expanded audit scope; ABS aligns the certificate expiry with the ISM Document of Compliance (DOC). Vessels selected for certification will be issued a Certificate of Vessel Compliance (CVC) in the same manner; ABS aligns the certificate expiry with the Safety Management Certificate (SMC). ABS-classed vessels will also be issued corresponding notations in the ABS Record. All certificates are non-transferrable and are subject to periodic and intermediate verifications to be conducted at each certified location.

Additional Resources

ABS developed Guidance Notes on the Investigation of Marine Incidents to assist clients with implementing a comprehensive approach to effective safety management. The Guidance Notes outline incident investigation and the determination of root causes. Forms and checklists are also provided for use during an investigation. Together with the HSQEEn Guide, the Guidance Notes can be used to address a range of objectives for health, safety, quality and environmental management programs.
