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TOPIC 6: ISM (INTERNATIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT)

The ISM code's main objectives are:

- To ensure safety at sea.
- To prevent human injury or loss of life.
- To avoid damage to the environment and to the ship.

The ISM code is implemented by ensuring each ship has a Safety Management System (SMS) which contains:

- A commitment from top management.
- A Top Tier Policy Manual.
- A Procedures Manual that documents what is done on board the ship, during normal operations and in emergency situations.
- Procedures for conducting both internal and external audits to ensure the ship is doing what is documented in the Procedures Manual.
- A Designated Person Ashore (DPA) to serve as the link between the ships and shore staff and to verify the SMS implementation.
- A system for identifying where actual practices do not meet those that are documented and for implementing associated corrective action.
- Regular management reviews.

To ensure compliance, the ship is Audited at regular intervals of 2,5 to 3 years by the flag state who then issue the ship with a Safety Management Certificate.

Discuss a company's responsibility with regards to ISM.

"Company" means the owner of the ship or any other organization or person such as the manager, or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for operation of the ship from the ship owner, and who on assuming such responsibility has agreed to take over all the duties and responsibility imposed by the code.

Safety management objectives of the Company should:

- Provide for safe practices in ship operation and a safe working environment.
- Establish safeguards against all identified risks.
- Continuously improve safety management skills of personnel ashore and aboard ships, including preparing for emergencies related both to safety and environmental protection.

The functional requirements of a **Safety Management System (SMS)** include the fact that every company should develop, implement and maintain a Safety Management System (SMS) that includes the following:

- Develop and implement a safety and environmental protection policy.
- Implement instructions and procedures to ensure safe operation of ships and protection of the environment in compliance with relevant international and flag state legislation.
- Define levels of authority and lines of communication between, and amongst, shore and shipboard personnel.
- Develop procedures for reporting accidents and non-conformities with the provisions of this code.
- Develop procedures to prepare for and respond to emergency situations.
- Develop procedures for internal audits and management reviews.

Commitment from top management.

- Implement a top tier policy document.
- Implement a procedures manual that documents what is done onboard ship, during normal operations and emergency situations.
- Develop procedures for conducting both internal and external audits to ensure the ship is doing what is documented in the procedures manual.
- Appoint designated person ashore to serve as a link between the ships and shore staff and to verify the SMS implementation.
- Implement a System for identifying where actual practices do not meet those that are documented and for implementing associated corrective action.
- Conduct regular management reviews.

Discuss the following items contained within the ISM code: DPA, safety officer, safety representative and the safety committee.

The ISM Code is the International Safety Management code for the safe preparation of ships and for pollution prevention as adopted by the assembly, as may be amended by the organisation. The objectives of the code are to ensure safety at sea, prevention of human injury or loss of life, and avoidance of damage to the environment, in particular to the marine environment & to property.

ISM certification:

It is a certificate issued by the Flag State administration;

- The ship management company is issued with a Document of Compliance (DoC), this confirms that their management system complies with ISM requirements.
- Each ship, upon compliance, will be issued with a Safety Management Certificate (SMC), this confirms that the ship complies with the company's management system.

Both certificates are valid for 5 years, but their status is reviewed on a regular basis.

Designated Person Ashore (DPA):

To ensure the safe operation of each ship and to provide a link between the Company and those on board, every company, as appropriate, should designate a person or persons ashore having direct access to the highest level of management. The responsibility and authority of the designated person or persons should include monitoring the safety and pollution-prevention aspects of the operation of each ship and ensuring that adequate resources and shore-based support are applied, as required.

Safety Officer:

Under the ISM code, every ship must appoint a ship safety officer (SSO) who has the knowledge, experience, and skills to look over the important safety issues related to ship and its crew's health. The appointed ship service officer should have the necessary qualities to properly take the responsibilities imposed under the relevant provision of the ISM regulation. He should also help in proper implementation of the ISM code on the ship. The safety officer shall:

- Ensure that the crew of the vessel complies with the provisions of the code.
- Ensure that the crew complies with any occupational safety policy determined by the employer concerned.
- Ensure that the crew maintains a high standard of occupational safety.
- Investigate the cause of an accident, including all hazards or potential hazards to safety (including fatigue) that affect or may affect the crew of a vessel in the execution of their work, and all complaints by the crew of the vessel concerning occupational safety.
- Make recommendations to the safety committee concerned about any investigation or inspection or the prevention of any accident or the removal of any hazard or potential hazard.
- Carry out inspections of each accessible part of the vessel in respect of the occupational safety of the crew, at least once during this term of appointment or more frequently if there have been substantial changes in the conditions of work (provided that the interval between successive inspections shall not exceed three months).

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- Keep a record book in which he/she shall enter the full details of any accident or hazardous occurrence (including the date, the names of persons involved and the nature of any injury); and of any investigation, complaint or inspection.
- Immediately stop or cause to be stopped the performance of any work which in his opinion may cause an accident or serious injury, and inform the master.
- Carry out any other investigation relating to occupational safety which an employer or a safety committee may deem necessary, if so requested to in writing by the employer or the safety committee, as the case may be, and thereafter submit a report in respect of such investigation.

Safety Committee & Safety Officials:

Every ship is to appoint a safety official responsible under the Master for accident prevention. In a ship carrying fewer than 16 crew members, one safety representative; or in a ship carrying more than 15 crew members, one safety representative, to be elected by the officers, and one safety representative to be elected by the ratings.

Powers of Safety Representative:

The safety representative (SR) is to participate in any of the investigation or inspections carried out by the SO or after notification to the master or his deputy undertake similar investigations or inspections himself whether or not such investigations or inspections have already been carried out by the SO. Additionally the safety representative duties include the following:

- Act on behalf the crew on matters affecting the OHS of the crew he represents to consult with the master his deputy and the SO and make recommendations regarding any work which the SR believes may cause an accident (work should be suspended).
- Request, through the safety committee, an investigation by the SO or any such matter.
- Inspect any of the records kept by the SO.

Duties of the safety committee:

It shall be the duty of the safety committee (SC) to ensure that the provisions of the code are complied with. The SC is to make representations & recommendations on behalf of the crew to the employer on matters affecting the OHS of the crew. The SC is to inspect any if the records kept by the SO. The SC is to ensure the observance of the employer's OHS policies & to make recommendations for their improvement. Finall, the SC is to keep a record of their deliberations, conclusions & any representations made to the master or his deputy.