



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES

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To Whom It May Concern:

28 July 2009

Dear Sir,

INVITATION TO A SEMINAR ON IACS QSCS INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION

Venue: LONDON - Barber Surgeon's Hall, Monkwell Square, Wood Street, London EC2Y 5BL
Date: 22nd September 2009
Time: 1000 – 1500 hrs

Three years ago, in 2006, the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) embarked on a major restructuring of its Quality System Certification Scheme (QSCS) to ensure alignment with ISO/IEC 17021 *"Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems"*. QSCS is a quality management system based on ISO 9001:2008 supplemented with additional requirements specifically relevant to classification societies and IACS resolutions (e.g. unified requirements, procedural requirements, unified interpretations, common structural rules and other instruments).

IACS has recently revised the requirements of QSCS in order to make it both freely available and able to be applied to any classification society (not only those presently being members or associated member of IACS) that wishes to adopt and apply the QSCS requirements on a voluntary basis. For IACS Members, compliance with the requirements will remain a key criterion for membership.

In order to satisfy the independence required by the new QSCS regime, the audit and assessment of classification societies' compliance with the QSCS requirements will, from 1st January 2011, have to be carried out, exclusively, by independent Accredited Certification Bodies (ACBs), accredited by national Accreditation Bodies in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021:2006 standards and International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Guidance on application of ISO/IEC Guide 62:1996. In order for that to happen, IACS has foreseen a transition period, from 1st January to 31st December 2010, where the audit and certification of conformity with QSCS requirements of classification societies member of IACS will be carried out in parallel by Accredited Certification Bodies and by the current IACS Operation Centre, in order to establish the necessary processes and mechanisms, needed to maintain QSCS robustness and credibility as a matter of priority.

The purpose of this seminar therefore is to convene all interested Accredited Certification Bodies, selected by the current IACS Members, and other potentially interested parties in order to discuss the systems, processes and mechanisms that need to be put in place to ensure that the above-mentioned transition period is started in due time and the selected Accredited Certification Bodies are able to assess and certify the conformity of these technical requirements in a consistent manner.

Recognising that QSCS is being made openly available to other classification societies, including those recognised in accordance with the EC Regulation No. 391/2009 on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations, representatives from those organisations are also invited to attend this seminar. Invitation is also extended to those classification societies who may be interested to become an IACS Member.

The agenda of the seminar is attached for your information. The seminar will be chaired by the Chairman of the IACS Quality Advisory Committee, Mr Dragos Rauta, INTERTANKO.

This is an important occasion for IACS Members and their selected Accredited Certification Bodies to openly discuss these issues in moving this work forward. We look forward to your attendance and active participation.

Confirmation of your attendance would be appreciated and should be sent to:

Peter Williams
IACS Quality Secretary

Tel: +44 02380 211369
Email: peterwilliams@iacs.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Hermann Klein
Chairman, IACS Council



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SEMINAR ON IACS QSCS INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION

Barber Surgeon's Hall, Monkwell Square, Wood Street, London, EC2Y 5BL,
22nd September 2009, 1000-1500 hrs

SYNOPSIS

The purpose of this seminar is to convene Accredited Certification Bodies, selected by the IACS Members, and other interested parties in order to discuss the systems, processes and mechanisms that need to be put in place to assess and certify the classification societies' compliance with the IACS QSCS requirements, including Quality Management System requirements, based on ISO 9001:2008 supplemented with additional requirements specifically relevant to classification societies, and IACS resolutions, including minimum unified requirements, procedural requirements, unified interpretations, common structural rules and other related instruments.

The systems, processes and mechanisms to be put in place, must ensure the independence, robustness and consistency of the audit and assessment process as well as being sufficiently and appropriately transparent to those parties that oversee the processes and rely on its integrity, in view of continuous IACS QSCS improvements.

AGENDA

1. **Aims of the seminar and approval of the agenda** (Chairman)

2. **Introduction** (Roberto Cazzulo, RINA, Chairman IACS Quality Policy Small Group)
 - a. description of the new IACS QSCS regime
 - b. alignment with the EU system
 - c. roles of various bodies

3. **Current IACS QSCS Quality Management Review** (Peter Williams, IACS Quality Secretary)
 - a. QMR Report 2008
 - b. IMO Report on IACS QSCS

4. **Revised IACS QSCS requirements** (Hans Frivold, DNV, Chairman IACS Quality Committee)

- a. IACS QMS requirements
- b. IACS resolutions (UR, UI, PR, CSR)

5. **Certification Process**

- a. Transition period
 - ACBs' role (Hans Frivold)
 - IACS Operation Centre's role (Peter Williams)
- b. Post Transition period
 - ACBs' role (Hans Frivold)
 - IACS Quality Secretary's role (Peter Williams)

6. **IACS draft PRXX, procedural requirement for contracting independent Accredited Certification Bodies:** presentation and open discussion (Bob Giuffra)

- a. ACBs' auditor familiarization with IACS QSCS requirements
 - IACS QMS requirements
 - IACS resolutions (UR, UI, PR, CSR)
- b. ACBs' audits reporting mechanism to the IACS Quality Secretary
 - directly by ACBs
 - through each classification society
- c. participation of external interested Parties in ACBs' audits
 - IMO
 - EC/EMSA
 - Individual Flag States
- d. VCAs (pros and cons)
 - internal VCAs with external ACBs' verification
 - external VCAs by ACBs'

7. **AOB**

For further details, please contact

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IACS Quality Secretary

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