

Engineering Circular No. 57

NO: ENG/ISM/59(95)/03

Dated 22nd Aug,2005

Sub: Surrendering of Document of Compliance (DOC) after incident/accident

It has come to the notice of the Directorate that after the unfortunate casualty that occurred on a vessel, which led to a person's loss of life and grave injury to another, the company responsible for the Safety Management System on board ship, voluntarily surrendered the Document of Compliance to the Directorate even before the additional verification ISM audit could be initiated.

This has been viewed with concern. A company being in possession of a Document of Compliance issued by the Directorate, is not only obligated to implement an effective Safety Management System to ensure compliance with mandatory rules and regulations for safe operation of ships and protection of the environment, but also morally responsible for continuation of the Safety Management System of the ship included in the DOC. It is therefore necessary to reiterate that the Ship Manager / Ship Management Company should be more proactive in providing evidence as to the "effectiveness of the Safety Management System" as required by the Code especially after such incidents / accidents.

Under the circumstances, and also as per the Merchant Shipping (Management for the Safe Operation of Ships) Rules, 2000, Para 9 - Responsibilities pertaining to Audit, all ship managers / ship management companies are hereby informed that DOC / SMC once issued cannot be voluntarily surrendered after casualty till satisfactory conduct of verification audit and inquiry, as required under M.S. Act 1958 as amended, are completed.

This is issued with the approval of the Chief Surveyor with the Government of India.

Sd/-

(D.Mehotra)

Dy. Chief Surveyor-cum-Sr.DDG(Tech)