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Issue:
ISM certification of cargo ships registered in NIS.

This circular is valid from 1 June 2002 and supersedes NIS Circular no. 4/2000.

The purpose of this circular is to clarify some matters related to ISM certification of cargo ships registered in NIS for which the classification societies have been authorized according to Annex I of the Agreement.

1. Any of the recognized classification societies may carry out ISM certification (initial, intermediate and renewal) on any cargo ship registered in NIS without the owner having to submit an application to the Norwegian Maritime Directorate.
2. Further, no copy of SMC and DOC should be forwarded to the Norwegian Maritime Directorate for cargo ships registered in NIS. Such information should however be made available to the Norwegian Maritime Directorate by the classification societies upon request.
3. ILO Convention 178 has been ratified by Norway and implemented in regulations of 6 August 1996 No. 822 concerning a safety management system for cargo ships. As such, the convention applies to ships registered in NIS with a gross tonnage equal to, or greater than, 500. Since this convention is implemented in our regulations concerning ISM, the classification societies should ensure that this convention's requirements regarding seafarers working and living conditions is implemented in the safety management system when certifying and auditing the system.
4. If the entity (Company) who is responsible for the operation of the ship is other than the owner, the classification societies should verify that the owner has reported the full name and details of such entity to the Norwegian International Ship Register (postal address: P.O: Box 1013 Sentrum, N-5808 Bergen, Norway. Internet: <http://www.nis-nor.no>). A standardised form for reporting this ("Notification of assignment of responsibilities imposed by the ISM-Code") can be found on the Norwegian International Ship Register internet page (<http://www.nis-nor.no/kr/index.htm>).
 - 4.1. In addition, neither the owner nor the classification societies are to forward information to the Norwegian Maritime Directorate concerning change of Company. Such information should be made available to the Norwegian Maritime Directorate by the classification societies upon request.

5. CONDITIONS RELATED TO DOC CERTIFICATION

In the case of DOC certification of companies operating a fleet of ships registered in NIS and being classified by more than one of the classification societies recognized by Norwegian authorities, the verification of the Company shall be conducted in accordance with the following principles:

- 5.1. The verification of the Company and issuance of DOC shall be done by only one of the classification societies. All relevant results from such verification shall be made available to the other classification societies involved in ISM certification of the Company's fleet being registered in NIS. The Company will decide which one of the classification societies recognized by Norwegian authorities that shall perform the full verification of the Company, but limited to those societies classifying at least one of the Company's ships being registered in NIS. In particular circumstances NMD may renounce this limitation.
- 5.2. The arrangement described above does not relieve each classification society of the obligation to only issue ISM certificates to ships and companies in cases where it has been verified that the requirements to the safety-management system as set out in the ISM Code are fulfilled. Thus, those classification societies not issuing the DOC to the Company, are required to conduct limited verifications of the Company, if and when this is necessary to fulfil this condition. The practical arrangements for the ISM certification process shall be mutually agreed between the Company and all classification societies involved in ISM certification of the Company and the ships operated by the Company.
- 5.3. The total verification activities in relation to each Company shall be limited as much as possible within the constraints of the above principles.
