

WHAT IS ISF ? INTRODUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING FEDERATION

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ISF is the only broad based international employers' organization dedicated to maritime manpower issues, providing advice and guidance to members either directly or via its extensive range of global contacts by representing them in all relevant forms where issues are regulated.

In the plethora of international organizations, ISF represents the employers' voice on industrial relations issues, proactively explaining and justifying employers' activities to the media. To others, ISF is an authority on the STCW Convention and assists with advice on its detailed technical requirements.

The ISF Secretariat also supports other international organizations, such as our sister organization the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), and the International Maritime Employers' Committee (IMEC). While each organization is quite independent, these links ensure an exchange of information and co-ordination to prevent overlap and duplication of effort.

Externally, ISF has consultative status with the International Labour Organization (ILO), where it co-ordinates the ship-owner position at all maritime meetings, and with the International Maritime Organization (IMO). ISF reviews United States developments through links with a Washington office and attends, through ILO, meetings of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control Committee, which develops policy on port state control inspections within the Paris MOU region.

ISF is also an active member of the International Committee on Seafarers' Welfare (ICSW) and regular contacts are maintained with representatives of maritime unions, including the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).

While the regulation of labour standards, and of medical or professional standards applying to seafarers, forms a key part of our work, providing information or guidance on industry manpower developments is equally important, in areas such as international wage rates, training developments or recruitment trends.

Our Council is the principal policy-making body meeting twice a year under the Chairmanship of the President. It comprises a representative of each ISF member association.

Two principal ISF Committees report to the Council to priorities work undertaken the Labour Affairs Committee and the Manning and Training Committee. Each meet at least twice each year and membership is open to all ISF member associations.

Any organization which represents global interests must be impartial be seen to acknowledge and accommodate different views and be able to exert influence in a measured, professional and consistent manner without regard to national or regional interests.

ISF, with national ship-owner association members from Eastern and Western Europe, the Indian Sub-Continent, the Asia/Pacific Region, the Middle East and North, Central and South America, provides a unique forum for employers to co-ordinate effectively and influence events on maritime human resources issues.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

ISF is the principal international employers' organisation for ship-owners, whose membership comprises national ship-owner and employer associations, through which structure it can uniquely and legitimately claim to speak for a significant majority of employers in international shipping.

The aim of ISF is to promote and represent the interests of ship-owners and operators in matters pertaining to labour affairs, manning and training, and seafarers' welfare, within the international shipping industry. Its role of social partner at ILO gives it a specific platform to undertake these activities on behalf of the industry. To that end, ISF will:

- **ENCOURAGE** the promotion of good employment practice on board ships and develop resources to assist ship-owners and operators to ensure good practice in all activities including recruitment, training and seafarers' contracts.
- **DEVELOP** materials and policies which assist national associations with recruitment and training of seafarers.
- **STRIVE** for a regulatory environment which supports safe and secure shipping operations, protection of the environment, seafarers' welfare and adherence to internationally adopted standards and procedures ensuring an international level playing field.
- **SUPPORT** such regulation of the employment relationship and seafarers' welfare at the international level and oppose unilateral and regional action by governments which adversely has an impact upon those whom ISF represents.
- **PRESS** for recognition of the commercial realities of shipping and the role of the seafarers and their representatives in helping to maintain a viable industry.
- **PROMOTE** the positive benefits of a career at sea.
- **ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE** with other organisations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, in the pursuit of these objectives.
- **COOPERATE** with other bodies to ensure seafarers and ship-owners are treated with dignity and respect and in accordance with international law.
- **ANTICIPATE** whenever possible and respond whenever appropriate to policies and actions which conflict with the above.

MEMBERS OF ICS & ISF

[*ICS - ICS MEMBERS ONLY *ISF - ISF MEMBERS ONLY]

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