

Dry Bulk Management Standard (DBMS): A pathway to continuous improvement

The wide acceptance and success of the TMSA within the tanker industry has turned the attention of dry bulk industry leading figures and maritime experts on whether it would also be suitable for application to other vessel types. A similar set of guidelines for the dry bulk sector had been a long time coming, in order to bridge the divergence between dry bulk and tankers vessels as far as safety and risk management is concerned.

The industry's need for a commonly acceptable quality benchmark seems to have been covered by the recently launched Dry Bulk Management Standard (DBMS); a tool developed in its draft form under the auspices of Rightship, a leading maritime risk management organisation, which includes a set of resources to help companies self-assess their performance, as well as a set of best practice guidance for continuous improvement.

The DBMS is in fact the result of an initiative put forward over a decade ago by industry professionals to create a single standard – initially called Bulker Management Self-Assessment (BMSA)- that would provide shipmanagers with the tools for safety improvements.

Performance measurement is at the core of the new standard, which requires to set HSSE objectives and communicate them to the workforce. These measurements are then used to understand, sustain and enhance performance by developing and implementing improvement plans to reach these objectives.