

## **International Chamber of Shipping**

### **MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA AND OBLIGATIONS**

**(As adopted by Executive Committee, 28 April 2010)**

#### **1. Objective**

ICS works for the benefit of shipowners worldwide, and all shipowners benefit from the work which ICS does on behalf of the industry whether they are members of ICS (through their national association) or not. ICS should therefore strive to have as broad a membership base as possible both to ensure that it is seen to represent the industry as a whole, and so that the shipowners who benefit from ICS work make the appropriate contribution to the work of ICS.

ICS promotes high and consistent standards in the industry (through influencing sound international regulation and application of best practice), and therefore this objective should be reflected in its criteria for membership.

ICS also promotes continuous improvement with regard to safety and protection of the environment and to the quality and efficiency of the services that the international shipping industry provides to world trade and thus to the improvement of standards of living for all people worldwide.

ICS should therefore aim to have as broad a constituency of national association members as possible, while at the same time using its influence to ensure the highest standards of the national flags of its national association members, and of the individual vessels operated by their members.

#### **2. Full Membership - Criteria and Obligations for National Associations**

Associations should:

- 2.1 Have their main category of membership comprising shipowning or operating entities that support the principles of free trade and free competition.
- 2.2 Be private sector organisations effectively controlled by their members and recognised nationally as the main representative of the relevant shipping sector.
- 2.3 Have a secretariat which conducts the administration of their business.

- 2.4 Support the aims and objectives of ICS as set out in its ~~Statement of Purpose~~(see below).
- 2.5 Aim to participate actively in the work of ICS (or that part which is of direct relevance and/or interest to them) by commenting promptly on the circulars, position papers and other communications they receive from the ICS Secretariat.
- 2.6 Support the concept that members of ICS always strive to reach consensus on issues under discussion and that they are encouraged to participate in all debates within ICS with an open mind.
- 2.7 Recognise that ICS represents the full breadth of the shipping industry and thus it is the spokesman for all shipowners in the world in all international fora that impact on shipping, especially at IMO.
- 2.8 Endeavour to ensure that their shipowner/operator members operate their vessels in conformity with all international regulations as enforced by flag state and port state control and have appropriate liability insurance to meet all of their liabilities for their ships. Associations should also promote industry best practice among their members.
- 2.9 In pursuit of high standards of operation, aim to ensure that their national flags should not be on the target lists of regional port state control authorities. Members whose national flags are on those target lists should co-operate with their flag administration to encourage the necessary improvement in flag performance. ICS will seek to provide assistance to associations pursuing such aims.

### **3. Criteria and Obligations for Associate Membership**

- 3.1 The general criteria for Associate Membership are set out in para 4 of the Articles of Association. Within those criteria, it is expected that Associate Members will normally fall into one of three general categories (though other organisations should not be excluded from consideration for Associate Membership):
  - (a) Individual shipowners based in countries where ICS does not have a national association member;
  - (b) National associations of shipowners and other shipping interests who do not qualify for full membership (e.g. where they predominantly represent agents/local offices of overseas shipowners, or a particular specialised group of shipowners); and

(c) Regional associations, or international associations who represent specific industry sectors, and who thereby can add value to the work of ICS.

An application for Associate Membership from an association in a country already represented by a Full Member shall be subject to the consent of that Member.

- 3.2 Associate Members are expected to meet the general criteria and obligations as for Full Members except where specific criteria/obligations are set out for Associate Members.
- 3.3 Associate Members are not eligible to be elected to sit on the Executive Committee.
- 3.4 Associate Members are welcome to participate in the work of all other ICS committees and panels as observers, but will only routinely receive circulars for those committees and panels to which they nominate a representative and commit to active participation (which does not necessarily have to be by personal attendance, recognising the difficulties for some associations to attend meetings).
- 3.5 Where an Associate Member (other than an international association) represents shipping interests in the same country as a Full Member, it is expected that consultation will take place between the Associate and Full Member before any action is taken by the Associate Member within that country on issues raised by ICS for action by national associations.
- 3.6 Where an Associate Member is an international association which develops its own positions on issues on which ICS is actively engaged, or which fall within ICS's general remit, then it is expected that the Associate Member will share transparently in the development and outcome of its own position (in the same way that the Associate Member has access to the development and outcome of ICS's positions) and seek to give advance notice of any public statement of any such position. However, while this is intended to promote open dialogue between the associations and ICS on their respective positions, it does not preclude such an Associate Member from arriving at a position which may be different from that of ICS in respect of its specific sectoral interests.

## ICS STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

ICS is the principal international trade association for the shipping industry, representing all sectors and trades and comprising national shipowner associations, through which structure it can uniquely and legitimately claim to speak for the significant majority of international shipping.

The aim of ICS is to act as an advocate for the industry on issues of maritime affairs, shipping policy and technical matters, including ship construction, operation, safety and management, and to develop best practice in the industry.

To that end, ICS will:

1. ENCOURAGE high standards of operation and the provision of high quality and efficient shipping services.
2. STRIVE for a regulatory environment which embraces safe shipping operations, protection of the environment, maintenance of open markets and fair competition as well as adherence to internationally adopted standards and procedures.
3. SUPPORT such regulation of shipping at an international level and oppose unilateral and regional action by governments.
4. PRESS for recognition of the commercial requirements of shipping and of the need for operators who meet the required standards to secure a proper commercial return.
5. REMAIN COMMITTED to the promotion and updating of industry guidance on best operating practices.
6. COOPERATE with other organisations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, in the pursuit of these objectives.
7. PROMOTE the industry's profile as a safe, clean, energy efficient, comprehensively regulated and responsible facilitator of global trade.
8. ANTICIPATE whenever possible and respond whenever appropriate to policies and actions which conflict with the above.