

Title: Maritime Sustainability and the Human Element - Promoting the Safety Culture Onboard

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Abstract

Although the aim of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) is to work towards achieving the three dimensions (the economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development in the Maritime Transportation System, but Safety will always remain the overriding priority. The importance of the human element issue in Maritime Safety cannot be overemphasized as almost 85% of all accidents involved human error. Developing a safety culture is believed to be the answer to improving operational safety and thereby reducing and preventing accidents but how can this be done? This paper looks at how the International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (ISM Code) as well as the other tools can help to promote a Safety Culture onboard.