What are Condition Surveys?

“Condition Surveys” are arranged for both newly-entered and already-entered vessels within a specific time limit set by the Association. Condition surveys are a very important way of minimising damage sustained by members and claims paid by the Association. Survey triggers include the age and type of the vessel. Surveyors are nominated by the Association.

In recent years there has been a slight decrease in the number of claims, however the scale of maritime incidents has been getting larger and more expensive. All the members of the International Group of P&I Clubs are making every effort to reduce claims by increasing their Loss Prevention activities, and Condition Surveys are an important part of this.

The surveyors we appoint are fully skilled experts in their field. They carry out the surveys on a worldwide basis, without delaying the vessel on its schedule.

Surveys are based on report forms which have been developed jointly with the International Group of P&I Clubs. The scope is not limited to checking the vessels’ seaworthiness and cargo-worthiness but includes shipboard maintenance, management status, licenses of ships’ officers, and relevant certificates and documents. In addition to finding defects, we focus on areas which could be the cause of future problems. Usually, we ask members to let us have confirmation of the rectification of defects within one month of the survey taking place and / or the plan for rectification if repairs cannot take place immediately.

In some cases, where serious defects relating to seaworthiness or cargo-worthiness are found, we attach Defects Warranties to the vessel’s cover. These warranties remain in place until we receive confirmation of the repair of the defective items.

Since we recommend rectification even for some minor defects, sometimes Condition Surveys are perceived as ‘finding fault’. However, condition surveys can assist vessel superintendents and management companies with the enormous amount of daily maintenance and check-ups they have to carry out. For example, it is not enough to have a Safety Management Certificate on board. A fully compliant safety management procedure must be followed on the vessel, and a Condition Survey will check this.

In addition, the condition surveyor may find defective items which had previously been overlooked. We therefore believe that Condition Surveys provide a good opportunity to obtain a full picture of the current condition of the vessel, including the maintenance / management status and performance of superintendents and ships’ officers.

We hope that by inspecting vessels at regular intervals with Condition Surveys, we will help you with the safe navigation of your vessels and the prevention of accidents.

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