

1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance on the certification, verification and control of the Safety Management System.

2. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Ship Operations Manager to insure that the Safety Management System obtains and maintains certification.

3. General

The Safety Management System is required by regulation to be certified by an independent third party organization. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution has selected ABS Americas to be that independent third party organization.

ABS Americas shall be contracted to conduct initial and ongoing certification activities and regular external audits as prescribed by the ISM Code. ABS Americas shall continue under contract until it has been determined otherwise by the Ship Operations Manager.

Determination to change independent third party organizations shall be done with adequate time to obtain certification prior to the expiration of the existing certification.

Verification that the Safety Management System is in compliance with the ISM Code is accomplished through routine internal and external audits.