



SAFETY MANAGEMENT MANUAL

1.3 SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Originator:	Approved By:
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to set forth what the Safety Management System is and what its objectives are.

2. Scope

The Safety Management System is required by the SOLAS Convention and is mandatory for all cargo ships of 500 gross tons and over. The mandatory compliance date is 1 July 2002. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution operates oceanographic research vessels that are regulated under SOLAS as cargo vessels. The ISM Code requires the certification of the company and compliance with the stated Safety Management System by all WHOI vessels required by the SOLAS convention, namely the R/V Neil Armstrong and R/V Atlantis.

3. General

The ISM Code provides an international standard for the safe management and operation of ships and for pollution prevention. Central to the ISM Code is the establishment of a Safety Management System (SMS) that is documented and followed. The SMS is documented in a Safety Management Manual (SMM). The SMM is a living document that reflects what and how things are done safely on vessels operated by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Under the ISM Code Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) is required to receive a Document of Compliance. This is issued by several third-party organizations authorized by the International Maritime Organization. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution has chosen ABS Americas to perform this function. A Document of Compliance is valid for a period of five (5) years. Compliance is verified on a periodic basis annually within three months before or after each anniversary date of its issuance.

The safety management objectives of WHOI are to provide for safe practices in ship operations and a safe working environment. It provides for the assessment of all identified risks to its ships, personnel and the environment and establishes appropriate safeguards. It continuously improves safety management skills of personnel ashore and aboard ships, including preparing for emergencies related both to safety and environmental protection. The Safety Management System ensures compliance with mandatory rules and regulations and that applicable codes, guidelines and standards recommended by the Organization, Administrations, classification societies and maritime industry organizations are met.

The function of the Safety Management System is to develop, implement and maintain a safety and environmental protection policy. It contains instructions and procedures to ensure safe operation of ships and protection of the environment. The SMS defines levels of authority and lines of communication between, and amongst,



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shore and shipboard personnel. It establishes procedures for reporting accidents and nonconformities with the provisions of the ISM Code, provides procedures to prepare for and respond to emergency situations and procedures for internal audits and management reviews. This is documented in the Safety Management Manual.

The development and maintenance of the SMM is coordinated by the Port Engineer in the Ship Operations Group under the direction of the Ship Operations Director. Input, recommendations and changes to the SMM are encouraged from both shore and vessel personnel.