

EMSA Signs Rulecheck Contract with Koreans

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The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the Korean Register of Shipping (KRS) have concluded a contract to develop a system which will give those responsible for carrying out ship inspections in EU ports a complete list of all the rules and procedures which need to be applied in their work. The system will be called Rulecheck, and it will enable port state control officers (PSCOs) who inspect selected ships when they are in port to carry out the work more effectively, given the complex elements of EU and international legislation that they need to understand and follow.

"EMSA's role in this area is to ensure that ship inspections in EU ports are carried out as effectively and consistently as possible throughout the EU," said Executive Director, Willem de Ruiter. "Port state control is one of the most important methods of ensuring ships comply with the relevant international agreed standards and this system, when it is completed, will ensure the PSCO is aware of the exact regulations which apply to each ship. This will, in my view, lead to an improvement in the standard of PSC inspections and a harmonisation of inspections throughout the Paris MoU regime. I am sure that the Korean Register will produce an excellent product which, with the assistance of the group of the Paris MoU users, will be what the PSCO needs."

"KRS is very well placed to carry out this task, having demonstrated an excellent track record in carrying out such work previously," said KRS general manager, Young-Jun Jung. "We are confident that the successful outcome of this project will assist EMSA with its drive to strengthen, harmonise and improve the standards of the port state control inspection regime within the EU and wider Paris MoU regions. As a classification society, this project will not only give us a chance to raise our profile as a leading ship classification society in a traditional sense, but will also provide an opportunity to showcase our innovations and competence in the information technology sector."

Background

The Rulecheck contract is for the design, development, testing and delivery of a system to give PSCOs in the Paris MoU region a complete list of all the rules and procedures which apply to the ship to be inspected, based on the ship type and age. The system will ensure that the PSCO is able to more easily apply the relevant rules to the ship, notwithstanding the complexities contained in the various international conventions (Directive 1995/21/EC as amended and the Paris Memorandum on Port State Control).

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Port state control is one of the most important methods of ensuring that ships comply with the appropriate international legislation and this system, when it is completed, will allow the PSCO to produce a checklist of the rules and procedures which apply to a specific ship: on the date of inspection; given the ships name; its IMO number; the ship type and; the date on which the keel was laid. This checklist may also reflect the type of the inspection: from the first initial inspection (when a relatively limited inspection is carried out); through to a more detailed inspection (when additional items may be inspected); to an expanded inspection, when any area of the ship can be inspected in greater detail. This should lead to improvements in the effectiveness and consistency with which inspections are carried out in all countries which operate under the Paris MoU umbrella.

This contract requires that the system is up-dated as and when required for a period of 4 years to reflect any amended or new requirements. KRS is a member of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) and was established in 1960 with the purpose of promoting the safety of life, property and the protection of marine environment.

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