

## Rightship launched New Dry Bulk Management Standard ( DBMS )

**RightShip** has recently announced a new program for the **DRY BULK** sector which aims to ensure the highest possible levels of safety, security and environmental excellence. The new **Dry Bulk Management Standard (DBMS)** aims to support the improvement of safety and risk management standards within dry bulk ship management and help drive collaboration, conversation and increased standards in the dry bulk sector.

The guidelines and standards (draft at present) have been created after many months of collaboration with partners and operators across the dry bulk segment and the wider industry, including experienced ship managers and maritime experts.

### What are the DBMS Key Objectives?

The program (voluntary at present) is designed to allow ship managers to measure their own Safety Management System (SMS) against that of the agreed industry standards, with an aim of improving the fleet performance and the risk management. This will ensure an operator's policies align with the industry best practice to both advance their performances and to attain high standards of health, safety, security and pollution prevention.

### DBMS aims to:

- Provide expectations and targets against which companies can assess their own safety management systems.
- Benchmark a company's management system against four key levels:
  1. **Basic**
  2. **Intermediate**
  3. **Advanced**
  4. **Excellence**
- Allow the creation of self-assessment results that can be used to develop phased plans to support the continuous improvement of ship management systems being implemented.

- Encourage companies to regularly review their self-assessment results against DBMS expectations and to create achievable plans for improvement thus making the system as dynamic as possible.

## DBMS AREAS

There will be 30 areas of management practice across the four most serious risk areas generally faced in vessel operations these being

1. **Performance**
2. **People**
3. **Plant**
4. **Process.**

The DBMS will grade the excellence of a company's SMS against measurable expectations and targets without involving the burdens of excessive inspections.



The tool consists of a draft self-assessment questionnaire for review by the industry to gather feedback and opportunities for improvement, as already explained, with the vision to launch a revised standard next year and to incorporate a dashboard. The dashboard will show how a company's self-assessment compares to other companies on a range of statistics that have been identified as indicators of good management.

The staff involved in self-assessing each area have a very importance role as they should identify and gather evidence in relation to the expectation and target for each stage. Some sources of evidence are: the last self-assessment report, the external audits of the company, the internal audits and feedback from stakeholders.

The standard describes the scoring methodology and cites the PDCS cycle as a way of implementing continual improvement within companies' activities

### Levels of DBMS Standard

Within each subject area, the standard provides expectations and associated targets at four levels, as mentioned above and as can be seen in the below figure. Each level describes the comprehensiveness of a company's management system in relation to the respective area. The expectations and the targets associated with it can be used by the company to self-access their systems and processes.



The **DBMS** won't be a replacement for the ISM Code **but** it will build upon industry standards and provide a systematic approach to encourage ship managers to move from minimum compliance to operational excellence.

However , **DBMS** will allow ship managers to stand out from the rest, whilst also enabling them to pinpoint the most effective management upgrades required across their fleet, saving time and money.

