



Government of the Isle of Man.  
Department of Economic Development

***Notice to Surveyors, Shipowners, Managers and Classification Societies***

ISM Reporting Style

**Introduction**

The purpose of this Industry Circular is to re-emphasise the ISM Code definitions for ISM non-conformances, observations and to clarify the purpose of 'feedback' statements on Isle of Man Ship Registry ISM Reports.

**Definitions as per ISM Code**

*Major non-conformity* means an identifiable deviation that poses a serious threat to the safety of personnel or the ship or serious risk to the environment that requires immediate corrective action and includes the lack of effective and systematic implementation of a requirement of this code.

*Non-conformity* means an observed situation where objective evidence indicates the non-fulfilment of a specified requirement.

*Observation* means a statement of fact made during a safety management audit and substantiated by objective evidence.

**Interpretation**

A *major non-conformance* is something observed that is a 'show stopper', a situation which puts the safety of personnel, vessel or the environment in danger and needs immediate rectification.

A *non-conformance* is anything else observed, where there is a non-fulfilment of a requirement under either the Company Safety Management System or the Code.

*Observations* are statements of fact, they cannot be 'minor non-conformances'. They cannot be negative, indicating any non-fulfilment of a requirement at all. Observations which are not non-conformities will be highlighted during the audit

closing meeting and included in the report. Observation 'notes' will not be issued as there is no need to propose corrective action or close them out.

## **Feedback**

We have included a section 'Feedback' in our reports. The purpose of this section is to provide narrative to the report, where the auditor feels that it may be beneficial to the Company. Feedback can be good things noted, items examined or tested, drills done and the auditor's 'ideas for improvement' etc...

## **Isle of Man Ship Registry**

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*Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give Legal Advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.*