

## **2022 FOCUS AREAS - GUIDANCE NOTE**

### **Introduction**

The procedure in Section J3 of Volume 3 has been used, for the identification and development of the Focus areas for 2022 by Operations Centre (OC). Risk-based thinking was followed, taking into account input from the following:

- a) OC analysis of three years ACB audit findings and the trends analysis on the findings
- b) Feedback from ACBs
- c) Comments received from QACE
- d) Specific issues, if any, raised by AVC and considered by Council
- e) New requirements including changes in IACS CSR, URs, PRs & UIs
- f) Changes in statutory requirements
- g) Developments in ISO 9001/QMSR

The following three Joint IACS-QACE Focus Areas have been drawn up, in accordance with the recently introduced procedure J3 in Volume 3, in consultation with QACE, ACBs and QC members.

### **FOCUS AREAS FOR 2022**

- 1. Implementation of the PRs revised as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic (PRs 1C, 6, 10 and 10B). Particular attention should be given to PR 1C and the extension of renewal surveys this should include the effectiveness of remote surveys and audits.**
- 2. Compliance with new IMO requirements entering into force including effective implementation in CS Rules, survey instructions, reporting systems and training, as appropriate. Particular attention should be given to present and planned emission control measures.**
- 3. Effectiveness of internal audits and the Member's internal VCA programme including the use of remote audit techniques, if used.**

### **GUIDANCE ON 2022 FOCUS AREAS**

#### **General - Implementation**

- IACS Annual Focus Areas should be verified by ACBs during a year's audit program.
- The ACB auditor shall explain the annual focus areas during the opening meeting. The status of implementation of annual focus areas shall be explicitly commented on within ACB audit reports.
- The IACS OC observer shall verify that the annual focus areas are robustly audited by the ACB auditors during observed audits.
- The status of implementation of annual focus areas will be included in the annual QMR.

The following points are recommended as guidance when following the audit trails related to the Focus Areas;

- 1. Implementation of the PRs revised as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic (PRs 1C, 6, 10 and 10B). Particular attention should be given to PR1C and the extension renewal surveys this should include the effectiveness of remote surveys and audits.**
  - The COVID-19 pandemic required additional measures in addition to the existing requirements already found in PR 1C to deal with the significant impact on the availability of surveyors to physically attend ships. IACS introduced addendum notices to several PR's to enable the safety regime to continue to support shipping in these unprecedented times.
  - The ACB auditor should verify how each CS introduced these updates into their working procedures and survey instructions and how this was communicated to the survey network and CS fleet
  - The ACB auditor should verify that requests for postponements as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic have been properly dealt with
  - The ACB auditor should verify communications with shipowners, flag states and other interested parties to confirm all necessary and required actions have been completed as required and in due time
  - How the effectiveness of remote surveys and audits has been verified and confirmed should be audited and the ACB auditor should verify how the CS monitors this and what improvement actions if any have been introduced
  
- 2. Compliance with new IMO requirements entering into force including effective implementation in CS Rules, survey instructions, reporting systems and training, as appropriate. Particular attention should be given to present and planned emission control measures.**
  - The increased focus on air pollution globally means the maritime industry is taking significant steps to reduce its environmental footprint, decarbonisation being the latest and very significant initiative.
  - During MEPC 76 in June 2021, the IMO adopted amendments to MARPOL Annex VI, introducing an Energy Efficiency Design Index for existing ships (EEXI). The requirements will enter into force at 1st of January 2023. The EEXI is applicable for all vessels above 400 GT falling under MARPOL Annex VI.
  - The ACB auditor should verify how the CS is implementing the latest current requirements in procedures and survey instructions and how planning for the future is being handled.
  
- 3. Effectiveness of internal audits and the Member's internal VCA programme including the use of remote audit techniques, if used.**
  - The travel restrictions imposed by Governments around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic has inevitably impacted the ability of ACBs to conduct VCAs.
  - To mitigate the consequences of this and to ensure the integrity of the CS QMS, the internal audit programme, inclusive of internal VCAs must be maintained and takes on greater significance.
  - The ACB auditor should verify how the CS maintains its internal audit programme, inclusive of VCAs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

- The ACB auditor should verify that the internal audit programme remains robust and the integrity of the CS QMS has not been compromised due to the introduction of remote auditing techniques

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