

IIMS MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR THE 2019 AGM

10th JUNE 2019

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Following a recent campaign to clear the membership list of non-paying members, the number of IIMS Members has been reduced from 979 to 924 over the past year. This membership reduction of 55 individuals is accounted for by a reduction of 55 Full Members. All other grades of membership remain stable.

An analysis of the details of lapsed members indicated that the numbers were evenly distributed between large commercial and small craft surveyors and across all surveying specialisations.

Some surveyors apply for IIMS membership merely to add post nominal letters to their business cards, take no part in IIMS activities and leave when they decide they get no return for their annual subscription.

Membership applications continue to be received from all over the world and from a variety of marine surveying backgrounds. The standard of applications becomes increasingly challenging, with straight forward applications becoming the exception rather than the norm.

There are currently 14 membership applications being processed by the Professional Assessment Committee.

ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

Accreditation or recognition on the IIMS by bodies such as Classification Societies and P&I Clubs may help with membership recruitment and retention. All surveying organisations tend to regard themselves to be at the top of the tree. The IIMS needs credible approval or support from suitable organisations to set it apart from the other surveying organisations.

More publicity for the information available on the IIMS website may be beneficial in attracting new members, particularly self-employed surveyors who need to keep abreast of news and developments within the marine surveying industry and are currently using numerous sources to obtain their information.

PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The PAC continues to monitor all Membership Applications.

As mentioned above, the standard of applications is becoming increasingly challenging. A high level of self-importance and the inability to accept that they are not competent in all fields of marine surveying are common traits found among applicants.

Applicants from the larger surveying businesses tend to assume that they are competent to carry out all types of survey merely because of their employer's name and do not provide evidence of experience or training. This leads to an increase in the time taken to process the application due to repeated requests for supporting information.

Common errors in applications are –

- 1) Not providing relevant details of experience in the CV.
- 2) Equating sea service to surveying experience.
- 3) Failing to provide evidence of surveying experience.
- 4) Assuming that carrying out a condition survey on a tanker, for example, makes the surveyor an expert in oil cargoes and tanker operations. This applies to all types of vessels.
- 5) Referees failing to support the claimed areas of surveying expertise.

I would again ask that all members supplying referees for membership applications ensure, where possible, that the application contains enough relevant and accurate information to enable the PAC to determine the extent of the applicant's surveying expertise.

Where applications are submitted via a Regional Director, the PAC would appreciate the Director using his local knowledge to verify the accuracy of the application.

I would like to thank the PAC members for their work during the past year and their assistance on maintaining the standards of the IIMS.

My thanks also go to Cam Robertson for her administration of the membership process and keeping track of outstanding applications.

Chris Kelly FIIMS
Chairman, Professional Assessment Committee
10th June 2019

Attached: - Membership Figures