

IIMS MEMEBRSHIP REPORT FOR 2021 AGM

2ND JUNE 2021

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

I am pleased to be able to report that IIMS membership has finally reached 1000 members, after 6 months of hovering just below that mark.

This is a total increase of 69 members, or over 7%, on the figure of 932 members in June 2020.

Changes in numbers by membership grades since the 2020 AGM are as follows:-

| | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>Changes</u> | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | | <u>Number</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
| Fellow | 36 | 37 | +1 | +2.7% |
| Full Member | 525 | 538 | +13 | +2.5% |
| Associate Member | 148 | 148 | 0 | 0 |
| Corporate Supporting | 38 | 36 | -2 | -5% |
| Individual Supporting | 22 | 18 | +4 | +22% |
| Affiliate | 82 | 122 | +40 | +49% |
| Technician | 48 | 52 | +4 | +8% |
| Graduate | <u>36</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>+9</u> | <u>+25%</u> |
| <u>Total Members</u> | <u>931</u> | <u>1000</u> | <u>+69</u> | <u>+7.4%</u> |

The clearing out of non-paying members was completed in late 2020 and the above figures are a true representation of current paid up members.

Affiliate Membership continues to account for the biggest rise in members, rising by 40 from 82 to 122 over the past year.

The high number of Affiliates can be accounted for by the number of new entrants to the marine survey industry and also by a considerable number of applicants seeking higher grades of

membership but being unable to provide sufficient evidence of surveying experience to qualify as Associate Member.

There are currently 41 membership applications in progress, many of them for Full Membership. Some of these applications have been in progress for several months due to applicants not supplying additional evidence of qualifications or surveying experience, when requested by the Professional Assessment Committee.

Many Technician Grade applications come from graduates of the MSA Coating and Insulation Inspector Courses. With the curtailment of these courses due to COVID restrictions, there has been a corresponding reduction in membership applications.

Although, since the last AGM, most applications have been from European and Asian based applicants, there continues to be a steady stream of applications from Africa, Australia / New Zealand and from North and South America.

In 2021 there have been 51 applications from Large Commercial Vessel & Cargo Surveyors and 39 applications from Large Yacht & Small Craft Surveyors.

Exaggerated or false claims of surveying experience are a standard part of the world of marine surveying and are very evident in the applications received by the IIMS.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CPD was discussed at length at the last PAC Meeting held on 3rd March.

It was generally felt that it is far too easy to gain the 10 CPD Points required in any one year.

The CPD Points Table was reviewed and amended, with some entries being removed and others having the score amended.

It was proposed that the CPD threshold should be increased from 10 to 15 points per year and that this could be voted on at the next AGM.

A significant proportion of IIMS members do not claim CPD points.

This would indicate that these members see no advantage to claiming the points – or looking at the other side of the coin – they see no disadvantage resulting from them not claiming CPD points.

Members have been given the opportunity to vote on the proposed change to the CPD system.

NEW SURVEYING EXPERIENCE CATEGORIES

A complete revision has been made of the categories of marine surveying that members can have listed on the IIMS website.

The list of categories has been expanded to give an accurate indication of a member's surveying expertise.

A downside to this expanded listing is that some surveyors are unable to resist "ticking the boxes" for surveying experience but being unable to provide evidence to support their claims.

A notable change to the system has been re-classing commercial vessels over 24 metres in length but under 500 Gross Tons as Large Commercial Vessels instead of large Yachts and Small Craft. The change resulted from IIMS applicants who specialise in commercial vessels under 500 GT not wishing to be classed as LYSC surveyors as they felt that this did not give an accurate description of their surveying expertise.

PROFESSIONAL ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The PAC now consists of 19 members who assess the applications for IIMS membership and decide on the appropriate level of membership and the accreditation of suitable areas of marine surveying expertise.

The board consists of 9 large Commercial Vessel and Cargo members, 10 Large Yacht and Small Vessel members and 1 Corrosion and Coatings member.

Each application is vetted by at least 2 PAC members. In cases where an applicant claims an unusually wide range of surveying expertise, the application is reviewed by additional suitably experienced PAC members to ensure that an accurate assessment can be made.

In cases where an applicant contests the decision of the PAC, the application is reviewed independently by different assessors.

There have been no cases to date where this system has not been found to be effective, despite threats of legal action by dissatisfied applicants.

As always, I would like to thank the PAC members for their continuing work and their assistance on maintaining the standards of the IIMS.

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

Chris Kelly FIIMS
Chairman, Professional Assessment Committee
6th June 2021