INTERVIEW by Gibalbertt Shipping

PANTELIS CHINAKIS

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SUPervision of a new construction is both a complex and exciting process which requires a balanced approach and coordination between all parties involved.

How do you view the importance of classification society in the marine sector?

Class is underpinned by the continuous and consistent application of the highest safety standards with a high level of care. A classification society’s role is to establish a safe and reliable system to guard the marine environment. It is the most prominent player in the marine safety and environmental domain.

Could you explain the classification survey process in detail?

A classification survey is a procedure conducted by a classification society member or representative to ensure compliance of a vessel with the rules and requirements of the classification society. It is usually conducted at a known shipyard or facility under construction. The survey includes a detailed inspection of the vessel’s design, construction, and equipment, followed by a review of the technical documentation. After the survey, a classification society representative issues a certificate of approval, allowing the vessel to be registered with the classification society.

What are the key roles of classification societies in the marine industry?

Classification societies play a crucial role in maintaining the safety and environmental standards of the marine industry. Their activities include classification surveys, as well as the verification and approval of newbuildings, existing ships, and offshore constructions. They also provide guidance and support to shipowners and operators for the continuous improvement of their vessels.

How do classification societies ensure the safety and environmental compliance of ships?

Classification societies ensure the safety and environmental compliance of ships through a rigorous and systematic process of inspection, assessment, and approval. They require shipowners and operators to maintain a high level of care and to continuously improve their vessels. They also provide guidance and support to assist in the effective implementation of international safety and environmental standards.

What are the challenges faced by classification societies in ensuring compliance?

Classification societies face several challenges in ensuring compliance, including changes in international safety and environmental standards, the need for continuous improvement in vessel design and construction, and the complexity of inspecting and assessing new and existing ships.

What role does technology play in the current marine arena?

Technology plays a critical role in the current marine arena. It enables the development of new and improved ships, as well as the improvement of existing vessels. It also enables the efficient and effective implementation of international safety and environmental standards.

In your view, what are the key points of the PRS MoUs?

The key points of the PRS MoUs are focused on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Port State Control inspections. They emphasize the need for regular and comprehensive inspections, as well as the importance of continuous improvement in vessel design and construction.

How do classification societies contribute to the PRS MoUs?

Classification societies contribute to the PRS MoUs by providing guidance and support to shipowners and operators for the continuous improvement of their vessels. They also provide assistance in the implementation of international safety and environmental standards, as well as the development of new and improved ships.