

## PRS: striving for safety across all spheres

Polish Register of Shipping's mission is to assist state administrations, underwriters and clients in ensuring the safety of people, floating objects, land undertakings, the safety of carried cargo and that of the natural environment. The company fulfills this through the formulation of the requirements, surveys and issuing of the appropriate documents.

"PRS offers classification and statutory surveys for all types of sea-going ships," says Grzegorz Pettke, Director for PRS Ship Division. He continues "Our company also provides certification of ISM and ISMS. With regard to health and safety we offers a service of verification of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM), including documentation verification, inspection and issuing of an inventory certificate or compliance certificate.

"We also provide a quick advice to ship-owners in emergency situations — a so-called Emergency Response Center (ERC). Thanks to the constant contact with the ship's crew and the owner's representative during an emergency situation, this service helps to assess the current situation better and make right decisions by the master.

"These are just a few examples of how we support safety of ships and their crew."

Among PRS' major customers are Polsteam Shipping Co. Ltd., Chinese Polish Joint Stock Shipping Co., Unity Line, Polferries in Poland and NITC.

"However," expands Pettke, "we have an increasing number of clients from other parts of the world who entrust their ships to Polish classification society. The whole fleet of sea-going ships surveyed by PRS reaches almost 8.5 million GT."

PRS' advantage lies in its individual approach to each client and expert assistance in making the right decisions. "We offer a clear and simple procedure to obtain required documents and

certificates," explains Pettke. "We are flexible in adjusting to our customers' needs and always strive to lower the costs a customer is to carry."

### EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND STAYING UP TO DATE WITH CHANGING LEGISLATION

In order to keep up to date and update its employees' knowledge, required for the maintenance of surveyor competences granted, each surveyor/technical specialist has to undergo a series of refreshing trainings at least once every three years. Refreshing training is realized in the form of lectures, seminars or e-learning, within the scope of changes made in the last three years in the PRS Rules, international conventions and codes, Instructions for Surveyors and forms as well as experience gained from surveys. Moreover, assessment of training effectiveness is carried out on short and long term basis.

Additionally, activity monitoring is performed at least once every second calendar year in each area of activity for which the PRS surveyor/technical specialist is competent.

Activity monitoring is aimed at verifying whether the monitored person maintains appropriate competences, i.e. knowledge and ability to perform their work properly. It is also the opportunity to identify needs for continual improvement of PRS' technical activity and define needs for changes in the Rules, Instructions to Surveyors, quality management system documents, training and tools supporting the executed supervision.

PRS continuously keeps track of all the legislation related to shipping safety and environment protection. Pettke explains: "When we say legislation, we mean the IMO resolutions, EU legislation, additional requirements of Flag States which authorized us to act on their behalf

(currently 40 administrations) and ILO documents concerning occupational health and safety on board ships. These documents are analysed and introduced to our activity as necessary and appropriate. Also as a member of IACS we take part in developing and updating IACS resolutions which we implement into our activity. The process is subject to constant scrutiny by external auditors and inspectors who supervise our activity."

### WORKING ENVIRONMENT

"PRS is a good place to work," says Pettke, "In the company we have many people with high levels of technical knowledge and experience. It gives the opportunity for young engineers and graduates to learn and gain experience in shipbuilding industry from the experts. We offer employees a professional development based on a system of training and shaping the work environment. Employees are treated equally and there is no place for any discrimination in our company. Working conditions enable employees to work in stable and long-term manner."

### HISTORY

PRS was established before the second World War, in 1936, as a classification society for Polish inland waterways fleet. This activity was continued till the early 1950s when PRS engaged in supervision over construction of sea-going ships. Since that time the company has been developing its range of services to include industrial surveys, products and management systems certification and lately certification of offshore wind farms.

PRS also provides training courses sharing knowledge and experience in scope of its competences. The range of services provided nowadays by Polish Register of Shipping is very wide.

*Polsteam's Gdynia, sailing under PRS class.*

