



## Wappen-Reederei's Officer Seminar in Riga, 22.- 24.09.2009

From September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, Wappen-Reederei conducted its third officer seminar in the Monika Centrum Hotels in Riga. Ten Masters, two Chief Engineers, five Chief Officers, four Chief Mates and five Second Engineers, in sum 24 participants, followed Wappen Reederei's invitation to meet for a seminar to strengthen the good relationship within the company and to be informed about the current issues and changes.



For the first seminar day, Wappen Reederei invited Cpt. Björn Kay of Marstal Navigations-skole to conduct a one day "Incident Investigation and Analysis" course to train the sea and shore staff how to act in cases of marine misfortunes and casualties. His main subjects have been the national and international regulations, the IMO resolutions A.849 (20) and A.884 (21) and the resulting duties for the persons who lead investigations, incident investigation for enabling the participants to document occurrences in a careful and objective way, incident analysis to avoid similar cases in the future, the human factor, drug policy and the company safety culture.



In the evening, all the participants and the staff went to the "bowlero centre" in Riga to spend the evening with bowling. Everyone enjoyed the challenge, the food and the cheerful atmosphere.



The Managing Director Jan-Eric Panitzki opened the second seminar day and welcomed the participants. He gave the audience an overview about the company's current situation, the tanker market in general and the employment situation of the managed tankers, the container market and the employment situation of the managed container vessels and the prospects for the future. Furthermore, he informed the participants about recent changes within Wappen Reederei. He also honoured two of Wappen Reederei's Masters who will retire still in 2009: Cpt. Niemann, who was the first Captain sailing on Wappen Reederei's tankers, and Cpt. Rüdiger, who also sailed on the tankers from the early days of the company. Jan-Eric Panitzki thanked both for the excellent cooperation within the last years and expressed that it will be very difficult for Wappen Reederei to compensate the loss.



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Afterwards, "Risk Assessment" was on Kristine Stripniece's Agenda. Although Wappen Reederei has an active and strong risk assessment scheme onboard its ships, the principles have been brought forward to the participants to strengthen their knowledge for the use of risk assessment onboard their ships.



Kristine Stripniece explained that risk assessment is one step of a risk management process and where risk is related to in our environment shipping. Followed by hazards identification and the evaluation of a risk factor, she presented a simple but helpful formula and risk matrix. The basic approach of risk assessment has been presented by a flow diagram and so called key questions which should be asked during every risk assessment. An overview about estimations about consequences, likelihood and the so called risk acceptability was given which has been completed by

presenting the ALARP (as low as reasonable practical) concept. The application of controls was another issue. All in all it gave a good overview about risk assessment, the principles and key points to be considered while performing risk assessment.

Janko Blesinski, the company's DPA and CSO, supported Kristine Stripniece's presentation a little by showing the participants where they might find valuable information about risk assessment in the company's vessel's management system, reviewing the company's procedures and forms applicable to risk assessment.



After a short break, Janko Blesinski continued talking about so called crew evaluation during SIRE and CDI inspections. He highlighted those sections of the SIRE and CDI Ship Inspection Report, which are concentrating on the evaluation of crew competence. It appeared

that CDI has a higher requirement for inspectors seeking evidence of knowledge and proficiency than SIRE does. While presenting the corresponding sections, Janko Blesinski gave examples of deficiencies observed during recent inspections and expressed which areas must be improved.



After the lunch break Olaf Habeck, Technical Superintendent of Wappen Reederei, informed the participants about the news of the technical department in 2009. He started with introducing the new gas detection equipment for all vessels which allows on board maintenance. Afterwards, he gave an overview of the changes and amendments in Wappen Reederei's planned maintenance system (PMS), e.g. the newly implemented stock control and the field for comments which must be filled in during job reporting. Olaf Habeck also informed the



attendees about the new fuel testing company their procedures and finally, he held a short refreshment course about safety equipment issues including maintenance and service intervals.

After another coffee break Cathrin Wille, one of Wappen Reederei's Crewing Superintendents, discussed with the participants some current issues which came up in the crewing department within the last month. The first discussion was about performance reports and the audience was asked to comment the need, the current form for evaluating, the process and suggestions for improvement. Afterwards, the discussion was about the crew planning, the employment system and the employment contracts. Finally, the participants were also asked to be critical about the cooperation with the company and to define needs for improvement.



In the evening, the participants made a guided walk through the old town of Riga and afterwards, Wappen-Reederei invited all participants and their wives living in Riga as well as the staff to the famous "Lido" Restaurant. The evening gave everyone a good opportunity to get an impression of the beautiful city, to enjoy traditional



Latvian food and to get to know the others better in a relaxing atmosphere.

The third and the last day of the seminar was practice-oriented and Wappen Reederei arranged a technical and a nautical event:



The deck officers went to the ship simulator and were divided into three groups. Every group had to go through an exercise and after completing, the different solution approaches of the groups were presented and the results compared.





For the engine officers, Wappen-Reederei invited Mr. Klaus-Dieter Rontke of Castrol Marine Oil GmbH who held a presentation including practical approaches about the lubrication of 2 - & 4 - stroke engines, the evaluation of used lube oil samples and the lubrication of stern tubes and trouble shooting.

Not only because the audience participated actively in the presentations and the discussions the seminar was characterized by a very good working atmosphere. The relationships between the sea and shore staff were strengthened, current matters concerning the company have been discussed, the company's safety management system has been promoted and enhanced and everyone gained a good impression of Wappen Reederei's philosophy.

