



AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE  
OF MARINE SURVEYORS

# Shipshape

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**Bulk carrier safety, efficiency  
reshaped by new rules, tools**

**YEAR'S END A TIME TO REFLECT**

components due to their deck space and structural capacity.

DNV's new deck cargo class notation reflects this evolving role, ensuring that vessels not only are structurally reinforced to handle these loads but also meet critical operational criteria.

The notation sets specific requirements for the strength of the weather deck and hatch covers, including coamings and securing arrangements, while also addressing intact and damage stability and navigational field of vision.

These standards help

shipowners demonstrate compliance with class and international regulations, streamline planning and approval processes, and reduce the risk of delays or disputes during port operations.

### **7) Regulatory shifts drive safer, smarter and more adaptable bulk operations**

Together, these developments are reinforcing the safety and reliability of bulk operations, helping bulk owners to stay in step with a fast-evolving maritime industry.

With the regulatory

environment expected to continue to develop, particularly related to the topic of decarbonisation, the ability to adapt and be flexible, and stay on top of regulatory and technological developments, will help bulk owners to make better-informed decisions and remain ahead of the curve.

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## **Insurance saves big cyber bills**

ONE of the main functions of marine surveyors is at the frontline of the maritime industry, assessing the condition and safety of vessels. Unlike the days before technology, the toolkit of a surveyor today has evolved from clipboards, film cameras and filing cabinets to tablets running specialised software, cloud-based data storage and artificial intelligence for data analysis.

With technology, marine surveyors are equipped with the digital tools to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and reporting quality. But they also introduce new risk. By relying on a chain of third-party software providers, marine surveyors inherit the security vulnerabilities of those platforms. Additionally, the amount of sensitive data surveyors handle is also seen as a treasure chest for cyber criminals.

Vessel blueprints, structural deficiency reports, client financial information and personally-identifiable information make surveyors



high-value targets for data theft and extortion.

The 2023 ransomware attack on maritime software provider DNV is a reminder that a similar flaw in a surveyor's software can also create a direct gateway for cyber criminals to steal data from the cloud or launch an attack that disrupts the surveyor's own operations.

For small to medium enterprises, the average cost to recover from a cyber incident can easily reach six figures, an expense that a comprehensive Cyber Liability Insurance policy is designed to cover.

This insurance not

only provides financial indemnification but also immediate access to the expert incident response, legal, forensic and public relations services necessary for business survival in the aftermath of an attack.

Getting a quote is easy. Contact Austbrokers Countrywide Insurance and speak to their Certified Cyber Insurance Expert (CCIS), Roy Chen, who can conduct a free no-obligation Insurance Risk Review. Contact Roy Chen on 1800 245 123.

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