International Federation of Shipmasters’ Associations (IFSMA)


Creation and aims

The International Federation of Shipmasters’ Associations was founded in 1974 for protecting the interests of shipmasters and other ship officers against the shipowners and securing their interests in other international organizations. IFSMA is a non-profit non-governmental organization. Its legal status is defined by the law of Great Britain.

The aims of IFSMA are: the establishment of professional contacts and relations between shipmasters on a global scale; support and collaboration with IMCO in its drive to increase safety in navigation; cooperation with international organizations engaged in the regulation of the safety of navigation and other questions of sea transport and use of the sea for other purposes; participation in the development of international professional standards for shipmasters and other officers.

Membership

Members may be collective members or individual members.

The collective members are shipmasters’ associations and respective organizations. In accordance with Article 7.1 of the Statutes, the shipmaster is defined as the person who possesses an acknowledged certificate and masters a ship.

An organization with combined membership may be a party to the Federation if it comprises shipmasters and other ship officers or individuals having a similar profession. The shipmasters have to form the representative group (in per cent relation), and the organization is represented to the IFSMA by the group of shipmasters only.

At January 1977 eight collective members belonged to IFSMA (see table below).
Individual members are shipmasters or ship officers who do not join the association or organization. They may independently belong to the Federation as individual members. At January 1976 over three thousand shipmasters were members of the Federation. The application for membership to the Federation is forwarded on a standard format with notification of the organization's name, names of the president and company secretary, and quantity of ships under its supervision. The organization also encloses a list of its members with the identification of persons representing the shipmasters.

The application is forwarded to the headquarters of the Federation which checks whether the applicant fulfils the requirements of IFSMA. If the said organization is already a member of the Federation the application cannot be rejected. In this case the association or organization obtains membership by two thirds of the votes of the Executive Council's members. But Article 3.a of the Statutes provides that a positive decision is taken only if its national status satisfies the Executive Council.

Individual members are elected by the Executive Council. Its decision must be approved by the proper association or organization.

Each member has the right to appoint delegates for participation in the sessions of the General Assembly and address it with any statement; to propose any question to be included in the agenda of the session of the General Assembly; to be elected a member of the Executive Council and subsidiary bodies; to receive free of charge publications and information material prepared by the Federation.

The principal obligation of the IFSMA member is the timely payment of contributions in accordance with the procedure stated in Articles 13 and 14 of the Statutes and in Rule 4 of the By-Laws.