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The **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations that sets global standards for the **safety** and **environmental protection of international shipping**. Its main function is to create a regulatory framework for the shipping industry that is fair and effective, universally adopted and implemented.

The IMO Assembly adopted the following resolutions:

- **Resolution A.1018 (26)**, approving the time frame and schedule of activities for the consideration and introduction of an institutionalized IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)
- **Resolution A.1054 (27)**, adopting the code for the Implementation of Mandatory IMO Instruments, 2011, which provides guidance for the implementation and enforcement of IMO Instruments
- **Resolution A.1070(28)**, instituting a mandatory Member State Audit Scheme in order to ensure that Member States fully comply with their obligations required by the IMO Instruments and determine which areas will require technical assistance. This became mandatory on 01 January 2016.

What is IMSAS?

The **International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)** is a mandatory audit under **IMO Res. A. 1070 (28)** to promote consistency and effectiveness of the implementation of IMO instruments and to assist the Member States to improve their capability in the performance of duties as Contracting Governments to international conventions.

After the **Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme (VIMSAS)** from 2006-2013, the mandatory audit of all Member States commenced from 1 January 2016, with the aim of determining the extent to which the Member States give full and complete effect to their obligations and responsibilities contained in a number of IMO instruments.

What are the areas covered by the IMSAS Audit?

The applicable IMO instruments related to the areas listed below should be covered by the audit for the purpose of determining how relevant the environment are carried out by the Philippines, with a view to further enhancing their performance:

- Safety of Life at Sea;
- Prevention of Pollution from Ships;
- Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers;
- Load Lines;
- Tonnage Measurement of Ships; and
- Regulations for Preventing Collisions at sea.





The Philippines became a member of the IMO in 1964 and is a contracting party to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Mandatory Instruments - **SOLAS 74, SOLAS PROT 88, MARPOL 78, TONNAGE 69, LOADLINES 66/88, COLREG 72 and STCW.**

The Philippines, in compliance with its international responsibilities and obligations, shall promulgate laws and regulations necessary to give the parties of applicable IMO Instruments full and complete effect so as to ensure safety of life at sea and the protection of the marine environment.

The Philippine maritime administration will be evaluated and reviewed under the mandatory IMO Member State Audit Scheme in **2021** and **every seven years** thereafter.

How will the Philippine maritime industry benefit from the IMSAS Audit?

The IMSAS audit aims to assist the Philippines for **continual improvement** and **enhancement of performance** as a Member State.

It is expected that the audit scheme will bring about many benefits, such as **identifying where capacity-building activities** and the **provision of technical assistance** by the IMO to the Philippines would have the greatest effect. **Targeting of appropriate action** to improve performance is envisaged. The receipt of valuable feedback is intended to assist us in improving our own capacity to put the applicable instruments into practice. Generic lessons learned from audits could be provided to the country so that the benefits could be widely shared.

Moreover, the results of the audit could be **systematically fed back** into the regulatory process at the IMO to help make measurable improvements in the effectiveness of the international regulatory framework of shipping.

The scheme addresses issues such as **enacting appropriate legislation** for the IMO instruments to which the Philippines is a Party; the **implementation and enforcement of the applicable laws and regulations**; the **delegation of authority** to recognized organizations (ROs); and the **related control and monitoring mechanism of the survey and certification processes**.

What agencies consist the Philippine maritime administration?

Different concerned agencies are considered as part of the maritime administration as their mandates include giving full and complete effect to the provisions of international maritime instruments. They are the:



Department of Transportation (DOTr);



Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA);



Philippine Coast Guard (PCG);



Philippine Ports Authority (PPA);



National Telecommunications Commission (NTC);



National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA);



Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA);



Office for Transportation Security (OTS);



Cebu Port Authority (CPA);



Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA);

and other port authorities.

How does the Philippine maritime administration prepare for the IMSAS Audit?


In preparation for the mandatory audit and prior to the conduct of the mock audit, the Philippine maritime administration has:

- a. taken steps to determine gaps in legislation and in charters of the concerned agencies;
- b. concluded inter-agency awareness or orientation programs for IMSAS;
- c. established audit teams for the mock audit;
- d. named audit members and observers;
- e. finalized Audit Plan for the conduct of the internal mock audit;
- f. organized series of workshops and capacity building for its technical personnel including auditors, and
- g. drafted the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Strategy, among others.

What measures, projects, policies are being/will be implemented to pass the IMSAS?

Several actions were and will be undertaken for the IMSAS preparation such as:

1. Issuance of Department Order (D.O. No. 2018-006) on the Creation of an Inter-Agency Council on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) to strengthen the cooperation, coordination and collaboration of the concerned government agencies performing maritime administration functions.
2. Constitution of MARINA IMSAS Technical Working Group.
3. Adoption of the Maritime Industry Development Program (MIDP).
4. Pursue the finalization and passage of the pending House Bill providing for a Maritime Code for the full and effective implementation and enforcement of international maritime instruments to which the Philippines is a state party as part of its national legislation.
5. Reorganization of the Overseas Shipping Service (OSS) of MARINA to include a third Division dedicated to assist in the Philippines' compliance with IMSAS 2021, facilitate technical assistance and capacity building and coordinate with external relations of the MARINA to ensure complete and effective implementation of IMO instruments.




6. Issuance of Memorandum Circular (M.C. No. 2018-01) on the Rules on the Accreditation of Recognized Organizations Performing Statutory Certification and Services for Philippine-Registered Ships, on behalf of the Administration.

7. Conduct of Inter-Agency Seminars/Workshops for uniform understanding and interpretation of the mandatory instruments into national and subsidiary legislation.

8. Drafted long term and detailed Work Plan on the implementation of IMO instruments which includes, mock audit, finalization of gap analysis and drafting of policies and issuances and monitoring of implementation

9. Continuous gap analysis between the existing international instruments which have not been fully enforced in the Philippines vis-à-vis its national legislation.

10. Undertake subsequent actions by the maritime administration based on the results of the mock audit, internal assessment and verification audits.





Are we getting technical support from abroad to help us prepare?

To prepare the country from the incoming IMSAS audit, the Philippine maritime administration organizes capacity buildings and training courses with assistance and support from different international organizations like the IMO. Just recently, relevant agencies underwent the Training and Workshop on IMSAS Preparation for Maritime Administration last February 2019 and the Training Course for Auditors under the IMSAS, April of the same year.



What will happen if we fail the IMSAS audit?

When findings and observations are found, the Philippines will be given a timeline to identify the root cause in order to correct those findings and prevent a recurrence. More importantly, the Philippines will be able to identify the necessary technical support needed to facilitate full and effective implementation of the mandatory instruments to which it is a State Party.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible on the left side, stretching diagonally across the frame. The sky is filled with numerous stars of varying brightness. A dark blue rectangular box is positioned in the lower half of the image, containing white text. The bottom left corner of the image shows a dark, silhouetted structure, possibly part of a ship's deck or a building, with some yellow lights visible.

Is the Philippines ready for the IMSAS audit in 2021?

The Philippine maritime administration is doing its very best to prepare for the IMSAS audit in 2021. With these united efforts, the Philippines will have a fair chance in passing the audit.

PHILIPPINES IMSAS ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE 2 0 1 7 - 2 0 1 9

Inter-Agency Workshop
for IMSAS Preparation
22-24 November 2017

Finalization of List of
Auditors
30 January 2018

Calibration of Auditors
12-13 February 2018

Pre-Audit Meeting and
Development of Audit Plan
05-06 April 2018

Internal Quality Audit
23-27 April 2018

Distribution of Audit
Plan/Agreeing the
audit plan
11 May 2018

Opening Meeting
25 May 2018

Audit Proper
28 May – 01 June 2018

Closing Meeting
05 June 2018

Submission of Audit Report to
IMSAS TWG/Dissemination
of Audit Reports
22 June 2018

Submission of
Action Plan
06 July 2018

Review of submitted
Action Plan
13 July 2018

Finalization of
Action Plan
20 July 2018

Implementation of Action Plan
July -December 2018

Follow-up Audit
07 February 2019

Submission of Final Report
to TWG
2019

Consolidation of Audit
2019

Verification Audit for
continous improvement
2019



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