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(Tradewinds)

Q04 hits the streets

Tanker organisation Intertanko has launched its first-ever major revision of the so-called 'Questionnaire 88' vetting form, which was designed to stop the proliferation of individual tests by oil companies.

Intertanko said today the new version was based on suggestions by charterers, brokers and owners, and took into account the many legislative changes that have taken place in the last years.

The new form will not be called Q04, however, but will retain its original name.

One notable revision is a new question relating to CAS (condition assessment scheme), in which the operator must specify if the vessel has a CAS statement of compliance as it pertains to Marpol.

Intertanko believes that this will be of value to port state control officers and other industry bodies.

The association also said the questionnaire was closely aligned with the OCIMF SIRE Vessel Particulars survey.

Q88 was formulated 15 years ago by Intertanko to stem the 'fast-rising' tide of oil company questionnaires.

The tanker body says some 6,000 questionnaires are downloaded from its site each month.

The effort to update Q88 was set in motion earlier this year, and has been carried out by a working group chaired by Captain Ashley Cooper of Scorpio Ship Management S.A.M, with the help of Fritz Heidenreich from Heidenreich Innovations Inc.