The Shipping Register of Ukraine on the Danube River

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Abstract: The article deals with the prehistory, goals and activities of the Shipping Register of Ukraine on the Danube River. It illustrates the main functions, the rights and law support of the organization, which can ensure the safety of shipping. The Shipping Register of Ukraine always tends to a constant and greater customer satisfaction in its work and continual improvement of the effectiveness of its internal quality control system.

Keywords: classification activities; Shipping Register; technical supervision; cooperation

The history of the Danube navigation is an integral part of the long history of the peoples who inhabited since antiquity coasts of the Danube River. It's the largest river in Central and South-Eastern Europe, which flows for some 2 860 km and the second-longest after the Volga with the whole area about 817,000 square km. The name of the river was given by the Celts, who lived here in the first half of the first millennium BC. Fleet River was named *DANUVIUS* (fast water) - from the Celtic words dan (fast, rapid) and vius (water, river). In the centuries to the present day the river throughout it preserved the name of the Danube. Germans and Austrians call the river Donau, Slovaks – the Dunaj, Hungarians – Duna, Bulgarians and Serbs – the Дунав, the Romanians – Dunarea. The earliest information about the river is in the works of the ancient Greek historian Herodotus (V c. BC).

In ancient times there was no question of the international legal regime for the Danube, although outlandish vessels passed through parts of the river, controlled by individual states. Before the 1 century AD the navigation of such vessels was regulated by the acts of domestic nature. With the emergence of the strong German and Sarmatian tribes in the mid-II century AD on the northern and eastern borders of the Roman Empire, the right of navigation on the Danube was established by bilateral agreements. This period (bilateral) lasted till about XVIII century. Intensive development of international navigation on European inland waterways at the beginning of the XVIII century prompted governments of major countries of the continent agree on the main principles of navigation on the rivers. The Convention on the regime of navigation on the Danube, signed in 1948 in

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Belgrade, approved a new Statute of the largest international rivers of the European continent. The Convention on the regime of navigation served as the legal basis for the conclusion in the years between the Danube countries numerous agreements in the field of technical, commercial and other terms of cooperation on the Danube.

Today navigation on the river, is carried out not only by the Ukraine, but also by other countries, is governed by multilateral agreements, international and national regulations, specifications, recommendations, is prescribed by the administrative authorities, etc. (Shpigelman & Vorontsov, 1991).

The important role is the achievement in a modern transport industry, especially in the shipping industry - cooperative efforts of all the organizations in the enforcement of the requirements of the safety of navigation, protection of life and health of passengers and ship crews, environmental safety of the fleet.

Not for nothing at the end of XVIII century, the same was introduced to the first Russian legislation on obligatory state registration of ships and issue to court documents related to their technical condition. Enacted by the "Charter of merchant shipping" establishes requirements for ships built in the part after they get "ticket" to the right of navigation and the application of mark on the stern of the ship. Already in 1800 he published a decree ordering the official measurement of the capacity of cargo ships, developed a number of rules of technical supervision. Great importance in the organization and development of the classification of water transport had insurance of ships and cargoes. Growth accidents and loss in connection with the insurance operations by the end of the 19th century made insurance companies initiate analysis of the technical design and operation of the fleet.

For this purpose, in 1898, technical committee offices of insurance companies established at Russian have started to work on the classification of the river fleet. This year is considered to be the official year of the beginning of the systematic classification and technical supervision of the courts on the river transport.

The first mentions of the technical verification of the vessels in Ukraine are directly connected with the organization of «Russian Register" in 1913. After the approval of the Constitution of "Russian Register" his official inspectors began steadily working in Kiev, Kherson and Nikolayev. Thus classification activities in Ukraine have a 100-year history.

However, the beginning of the authorities of technical supervision and classification in Ukraine is 1931. Then Dneprovskaya Inspection Register acquired its independent legal status in the Register of the USSR approved by Resolution "About the Register of the USSR" No 1127, 1931. This decree concretized the fundamental rights and functions in the technical supervision of the vessels, and their classification according to which regional inspections were subsequently set up, including the Dnieper inspection of Register.

In 1957, under the management bodies of river transport the River Registers of the Soviet republics were established. Dneprovskaya Inspection of Register was transferred from the USSR Register to the Dnieper Chief Management river navigation of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. While Dneprovskaya Inspection of Register, in coordination with the Register of the USSR, the Russian Federation River Register and the River Register of Belorussia provided technical supervision of ships constructions in plants, located in Ukraine and Moldavia (Sevriukov & Holchanskiy, 2003).

On April 29, 1991, by the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR Resolution No. 100 the Ukrainian State Inspection Register and safety of navigation was created. And on January 1994, by the order of the Minister of Transport the Ukrainian Register of Shipping was established.

Finally, on June 08, 1998 single national maritime and river classification society the Shipping Register of Ukraine was created. Currently, the head office of the Shipping Register of Ukraine is located in Kyiv, Ukraine. Here there are 10 regional representatives; one regional office is located in Budapest, Hungary, another in Rowena, Italy.

One of the regional offices of the Shipping Register of Ukraine is in Izmail, Ukraine. Coverage of regional Representation includes waterways of the Danube River. Regional representation has its urban areas inspectorates in Vilkovo and Kiliya. The Regional representation was created on March 01, 2002.

Under the technical supervision of the Regional representation there are the vessels and onshore located facilities of the ports of Ust-Danaysk, Kiliya, Izmail, Reni, Vilkovo, fleet of shipping companies in the region under the Ukrainian flag and vessels under the flags of foreign ship owners. In the structure of the Representation there is a qualified staff - inspectors, capable of conducting classification and statutory surveys of the vessels, the technical survey at industrial objects, to certify the items of technical supervision, etc.

As a whole Classification Society "The Shipping Register of Ukraine" is a state enterprise in the field of sea and river transport, basic activities of which are connected with ensuring of shipping safety.

The Shipping Register of Ukraine has developed and keeps updated the own standard technical documentation, has wide branching network, highly qualified surveyors, develops cooperation with classification societies and other organizations of Ukraine and international maritime societies in order to ensure safety of shipping.

The internal Quality Management System certified in accordance to the requirements of the ДСТУ ISO 9001 and accreditation of the company as

inspection bodies on compliance with requirements of the EN ISO/IEC 17020 are the guarantee of stability of services provided by the Shipping Register of Ukraine.

List of Official Authorities of the Shipping Register of Ukraine: Laws of Ukraine

Law of Ukraine "On Transport", Dated on November, 1994, No 232/94-VR

Summary; technical super vision on sea-going ships and their classification, irrespective of patterns of property of ship and her owner, are carried out by Classification Society, chosen at the suggestion of ship owner and on approval with the central governmental authority in the field of transport. Technical and classification supervision on river vessels is carried out by the Shipping Register of Ukraine.

Merchant Shipping Code of Ukraine, Dated on 23 May, 1995, No 176/95-VR

Summary: Technical supervision on sea-going ships, irrespective of patterns of property of a ship and its owner, and their classification are carried out by Classification Society, chosen by a ship owner. In accordance with the Code, the Shipping Register of Ukraine as a Classification Society carries out technical supervision on (Sevriukov, 2008):

- 1. passenger ships, tankers, ships for carriage of dangerous goods, as well as tugs irrespective of propulsion engines capacity and gross tonnage;
- 2. self-propelled ships, not mentioned in subparagraph 1, with propulsion engines capacity equal to or more than 55 kilowatt;
- 3. ships, not mentioned in subparagraphs 1 and 2, with gross tonnage equal to or more than 80.

The supervision on fulfillment on ships the requirement of international treaties of Ukraine is carried out by the Classification Society on authorization of the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine.

Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine

Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine "On Improvement of Technical, Classification and Shipping Supervision on Marine and River Transport" Dated on June 08, 1998 No 814

Summary: the Shipping Register of Ukraine is a national Classification Society, which carries out technical supervision and performs classification of sea-going and river merchant ships in accordance with Article 22 of the Merchant Shipping Code of Ukraine and Articles 26 and 29 of the Law of Ukraine "About Transport". Sea-going ships, ships of combined (river0sea) navigation, irrespective of patterns

of property and department belonging are the subject of classification and technical survey by the Register. The Register, in the framework of its competence, performs supervision on fulfillment of the requirements of international conventions, agreements and treaties, to which Ukraine is a contracting party. Authorities', stipulated in Articles 3, 10, 22 and 38 of the Merchant Shipping Code of Ukraine as for technical and classification supervision, are realized by Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine, Ministry of Transport, State Committee on physical training and sport, State Committee of Fisheries of Ukraine through the Shipping register of Ukraine.

The Register performs the following main functions:

- co-ordination of the technical documentation, technical supervision both issuing certificate and acts on ships and buoyant structures, as well as ship gears, facilities, devices, items, ship outfit and materials, hoisting apparatus containers etc., at testing and manufacturing materials and items of ship outfit etc.;
- technical supervision on ships in operation by carrying out periodic and occasional surveys and issue the documents of ship fitness for navigation;
- technical supervision on navigable hydrotechnical structures as well as hydrotechnical structures of ports, waterways, sea terminals, shipbuilding ship repair yards;
- technical supervision on environmental safety of ships;
- technical supervision on other objects and process of industry and transport under the authorities of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine;
- carrying out statutory certification on behalf of Maritime Administrations;
- maintaining records of ships under supervision as well as maintaining the Register book;
- co-ordination of the design standards, management directives, technical conditions and other technical documents on shipbuilding, ship repairing and technical operation of fleet;
- certification of Quality Management System in Ukrainian State product Certification System (UkrSEPRO), Register Certification System and an international System of Independent Certification (SIC);
- maintaining database for Hydrotechnical Constructions;
- technical supervision on sounding works in areas of water and port approaching canal, shipbuilding and ship repairing yards and shipping ways of Ukraine.

The Register has the following main rights:

• to require from the administration of ship, enterprises institutions to provide data and documents, as well as other necessary information;

- determination of nomenclature of supervised materials, goods and equipment;
- to suspend the works on those ships and objects, which have been built and repaired under its supervision or to prohibit their operation in case of infringement of stated rules and requirements, environmental pollution;
- to make decisions on the basis of appropriate substantiations (accounts, results of research operation experience and other materials), which are not regulated by the Register Rules, under the condition of ensuring necessary safety level;
- to co-operate, in due course as to the issues under the Register competence, with international organizations, institutions, companies and their representatives, as well as with foreign citizens;
- to carry out foreign-economic activity and perform commercial transactions on the foreign trade market for providing Register activity in accordance with the requirements of current legislation;
- to establish branches, representatives, offices and other separated subdivisions (with right to open current and settlement accounts in Ukraine and abroad) and to approve Regulations on them, to develop tariffs on payment for works, which they perform;
- to conclude agreements in both Ukraine and abroad according to established procedure, which follows from its Statute activity, as well as to perform credit and bank operations with enterprises, organizations, companies and individuals;
- to present the interests of Ukraine in International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) and other organizations, the activity of concerned with classification of ship and floating units and supervision on fulfillment of international conventions;
- to take part in development of scientific-technological projects for solving primary problems of progress of marine and river transport, in carrying out scientific and research works; to establish scientific and research interdepartmental board involving the representatives of concerned ministers and other central governmental authorities, essential ship owners, scientific and design institutions, shipbuilding and ship repairing yards;
- to establish standing independent qualification commissions for training, retraining, advanced training and certification of sea and river transport specialists (except State Agency for Fishing Industry of Ukraine, state Agency for Youth Policy, Sport and Tourism of Ukraine) in accordance with international Convention STCW 78/95 and International Code STCW-75;
- to conclude agreements with world recognized Classification Societies on cooperation co-ordination of requirements for ensuring maritime safety;

- in accordance with IMO Resolution A.799(18) to supervise activity of foreign classification societies authorized by the Administration of Ukraine on technical supervision on ships flagged by Ukraine;
- to attend ships, shipbuilding and ship repairing yards, ports, as well as organizations and enterprises, which design and manufacture the materials, products and equipment for shipbuilding and ship repairing, for supervision;
- under the positive result of special and occasional survey to issue the certificates which proof technical worthiness of ship and floating structures for navigation and which enable their operation as well as documents for certain machinery and devices, to extend the period of validity of the ship certificates and cancel them, if the technical condition of ship or devices doesn't meet the requirements of the Register Rules.

The Shipping Register of Ukraine performs its activity in accordance with authorities given by the following institutions: The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, The Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine, State Department for Sea and River Transport of Ukraine; The State Committee of Ukraine for Technical Regulation and Consumer Policy, National Commission for Regulation of Telecommunication of Ukraine, International Maritime Organization (IMO), UN Economic Commission for Europe, Danube Commission, Maritime Administration of other countries (Sevriukov, 2008).

Order of the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine Dated March 06, 1996, No 172-P

Summary: the Shipping Register of Ukraine as a Classification Society has authorities for carrying out technical supervision on ships, flagged by Ukraine, in accordance with the requirements of international treaties and issuing appropriate certificates on behalf of the Government of Ukraine.

Resolution of Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine "About measures for enhancement of security standards on seagoing and river transport, No 722 dated on May 12, 2007

Summary: the Shipping register of Ukraine is appointed as recognized security organization.

International Association and Technical Survey and Classification Institution (TSCI)

The Shipping Register of Ukraine is one of the founders and member of International association and Technical Survey and Classification Institution (TSCI). The following classification Societies are also the members of TSCI: Vietnam Register, Cuban Register of Shipping, Polish Register of Shipping, Russian River Register, Korean Classification Society, Slovak Lloyd. The subject

of activity of TSCI is classification and certification of vessels of inland and combined (river-sea) navigation, sea0going ships, technical supervision on vessels and other objects of manufacturing, building and transport as well as certification of quality management systems of manufacturing goods, performing works and rendering services.

Within the framework of TSCI the following working groups are works:

- Research and Development Working Groups;
- Working Group for Accreditation of TSCI as international non-governmental organization with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council;
- Quality Working Group;
- Port State Control (PSC) Working Group.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

International Maritime Organization disseminated information about the Shipping Register of Ukraine as about a Recognized Organization, which meets the requirements of the Resolutions A. 739(18) and A. 789(19) and other instruments that set in appropriate IMO documents:

- Information on authorities of Recognized organizations (RO)(FSI/Circ.11 dated on April 04, 2003);
- List of the non-governmental organizations, authorized to carry out survey and issue Certificates on behalf of administrations (FSI7/4, FSI/Circ.8 dated on November 23, 1999, FSI/Circ.9 dated on November 27, 2000, FSI/Circ.10 dated on June 04, 2001);
- Authorities on SOLAS-74 with Protocol 1978 (SLS15/Circ.93 dated on February 17, 1999, PSLS.3/Circ.53 dated February 17, 1999);
- Authorities on International Convention on Load Line (LL.2/circ.155 dated on February 17, 1999);
- Authorities on International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships (PMP.2/Circ.49 dated on February 17, 1999);
- Authorities on International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships (TM.3/Circ.56 dated on February 17, 1999);
- Authorities on ISM (SLS15/Circ.93 dated on February 17, 1999);
- Authorities on ISPS

The Shipping Register of Ukraine actively contributes its share to the work of IMO bodies, in particular in a work of sessions of the IMO Assemblies, Technical Cooperation Committee (TC), Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) etc.

Economic Commission for Europe Inland Transport Committee

TRANS/SC.3/2002/5 dated on August 06, 2002 "Implementation of Conventions and Application of Resolutions Relating to Inland Navigation".

Summary: the Shipping register of Ukraine is the Competent Authority duly authorized in Ukraine to carry out the inspection of inland navigation vessels.

ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2006/12/Add.1 dated on July 31, 2006 "Implementation of Conventions and Application of Resolutions Relating to Inland Navigation".

Summary: the Shipping Register of Ukraine is the competent Authority duly authorized in Ukraine to carry out the inspection of inland navigation vessels. National Rules for Construction and Classification of inland navigation vessels provide for the division of inland waterways into navigable zones 1, 2, and 3 in accordance with Chapter 1 of the Annex to Resolution No 61.

On August 25, 2011, the Shipping Register of Ukraine was entered to list of classification societies which are recommended for recognition in the frame of European agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by inland waterways (AND).

Danube Commission

RE/AND/May 2003 Meeting of the special experts group on the issue of carriage of dangerous goods in inland waterways (AND). Information that the Shipping Register of Ukraine is recognized by the Ministry of Transport of Ukraine as a Classification Society and Survey Organ, competent in the area of inland navigation shipbuilding. The Shipping register of Ukraine has already developed the requirements (Rules) for ships, which carry dangerous goods, as well as forms of issuing documents.

In accordance with explanation of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine dated on 22.03.2002 No 35-30-665, certificates issued by the Shipping Register of Ukraine within the scope of competence may be apply without state registration.

The Shipping Register of Ukraine concluded cooperation agreements with the following classification societies:

- Russian Maritime Register of Shipping:
- Russian River Register;
- Bureau Veritas Ukraine;
- Croatian Register of Shipping;
- Hellenic Register of Shipping;
- Polish Register of Shipping;

- Bulgarian Register of Shipping;
- Vietnam Register;
- Turkish Lloyd;
- Slovak Lloyd;
- Indian Register of Shipping;
- Cuban Register of Shipping;
- Cyprus Register of Shipping;
- Inspection y Classification Maritime (INCLAMAR);
- State Enterprise "Shipping Register" (Republic of Moldova);
- Panama Register of Shipping;
- Belarusian Inspection of River Register;
- International Naval Survey Bureau (Greece);
- China Classification Society.

18-07-2012 - Representatives of the Shipping Register of Ukraine visited Head Quarter of classification society Isthmus Bureau of Shipping (IBS) (Republic of Panama)

Visit was conducted in order to start implementation of Cooperation Agreement between Shipping Register of Ukraine and Isthmus Bureau of Shipping as well as trainings of surveyors of Shipping Register of Ukraine in the IBS system according to the following: quality management system; survey database; procedures for the surveys on SOLAS, MARPOL, LOAD LINE; Certification of ships in accordance with ISM and ISPS Codes; procedure for survey of ships with gross tonnage less than 500; annual surveys on behalf of Panama Maritime Administration.

After graduating trainings IBS issued for three surveyors of the Shipping Register of Ukraine Surveyor's Certificates of Authorization which indicates types of works, numbered identification surveyor's cards, personal stamps, IBS tariffs, authorization for access to data base of fleet under supervision of the IBS.

Presently the Shipping Register of Ukraine is a representative of Isthmus Bureau of Shipping in Ukraine and may perform classification and statutory supervision of ships classed by IBS and flagged by Panama, Belize, Jamaica, Honduras and Bolivia.

There are agreements between the Shipping Register of Ukraine and Maritime Administrations of Georgia and Union of Comoros, between the Shipping Register of Ukraine and Government of Mongolia, between the Shipping Register of Ukraine and Ministry of Transport and Road Facilities of the republic of Moldova; authorization granted on case-by case basis from Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Dominica, Tuvalu, Tanzania.

Small vessels under technical supervision of the Shipping Register of Ukraine shall be certificated on compliance with the requirements of Rules which ensure safety of shipping.

Taking the small vessel of foreign manufacture under technical supervision the Shipping Register of Ukraine takes into account Certificates issued by the foreign classification societies, International Marine Certification Institute, other certificates which prove compliance of the vessel with requirements for operation safety or in the absence thereof ship owner shall present documents which prove compliance with the "Rules for classification and construction of Small Vessels".

Vessels made by domestic manufacturers shall be certificated by the Shipping Register of Ukraine. Conforming documentations issued by RU are necessary for self-built vessels, for example confirmation of agreement the vessel design with the Shipping Register of Ukraine (Sevriukov, 2008).

The Shipping Register of Ukraine is officially authorized by the Government of Ukraine and Moldova to carry out tests, assumptions and inspection of containers in accordance with the requirements of the International Convention for Safe Containers, 1972. (CSC), the Customs Convention on Containers, 1972 (ICC) and the International Code on Maritime Dangerous Goods (MK MPNV).

Register provide documents that allow using of containers in international circulation and transport by sea, rail and road. Register documents deemed equal to the documents of other classification societies Administrations States to ratify the CSC, MCC and MC MPNV.

Register examines all containers with a gross mass of 10 tons or more, respectively, of the Rules of the containers.

Container design rules based on the Register of the International Convention for Safe Containers, 1972, the Customs Convention on Containers, 1972, the Dangerous Goods by sea, according to the IACS unified requirements IMO Resolutions and Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, international and national standards.

Register is actively working in the field of technical oversight in the design, manufacture tank containers and an overview of tank containers in service.

Having sufficient experience and numerous network of regional offices in Ukraine, register securely and efficiently provides a wide range of services:

- Review of technical documentation and verification of calculations, technical supervision over the manufacture, testing all types of containers, materials and articles intended for containers;
- Issuance admitted to different types of containers;
- Recognition of company-producers of container repair facilities and testing stations;
- Certification of welders and welding procedures;
- Advising on registration codes container owners in the International Bureau of containers;
- Technical inspection of containers in use:
- regular inspection at intervals of not more than 2.5 years;
- regular inspection at intervals not exceeding 5 years;
- for collision damage;
- at the request of the owners and insurance companies;
- when changing the owner;
- when evaluating transportation of a hazardous cargo;
- in the repair and modernization of container.

At the request of the owners of container Shipping Register of Ukraine certifies compliance of containers:

- International and national standards;
- Register the rules of Containers;
- International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC), 1972;
- Customs Convention on Containers (CPC) 1972;
- International Standards ISO;
- International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code);
- European Agreement on international road transportation of dangerous goods (ADR);
- International regulations for hazardous goods by rail (RID);
- The requirements of the International Union of railways (UIC);
- UN recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods;
- The requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME);

• The requirements of the customer.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications of Ukraine authorized register to conduct inspections for compliance with the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships (2001) and to issue the vessel certificate of conformity of antifouling systems. When deciding on the application of the new anti-fouling systems, Shipping Register of Ukraine uses the services of recognized organizations to verify and monitor the quality of the surface preparation and application of protective coatings.

Inspections of antifouling for compliance with the Convention are held by RU at the request of ship owners under the provisions of the "Guidelines for Technical Supervision of Construction of Ships manufacture of materials and articles" (Shipping Register of Ukraine, edition 2005) and "Guidelines for inspection of antifouling systems on ships and certification "(resolution MERS.102 (48) of 11.10.2002) (Sevriukov, 2008).

The Shipping Register of Ukraine (Register), an organization that meets the requirements of Resolution A.739 (18), has extensive experience in the provision of certification services by shipping companies and vessels for compliance with the ISM Code. Shipping Register of Ukraine has commissioned the work on certification under the ISM Code by the maritime administration of Georgia, Union of the Comoros, Moldova, Mongolia and Ukraine.

Register can also perform certification work for compliance with the ISM Code, and on behalf of other maritime administrations, not specified above, subject to prior agreement with them:

- Certification of the shipping companies and vessels for compliance with the ISM Code on behalf of various maritime administrations (mandatory certification);
- Certification of shipping companies and vessels not subject to the requirements of the Convention, the head of their SOLAC-74 as amended for compliance with the ISM Code (voluntary certification);
- Examination and approval of the documentation on the SMS;
- Issuance and confirmation Document of Compliance and Safety Management Certificate:
- Certification of organizations engaged in training in ISM and/or provide consulting services to the ISM Code.

Shipping Register of Ukraine is recognized organization in the field of maritime security. Register has instructed the flag administrations of: Moldova, Mongolia, Ukraine, Georgia (inspections of ships under a separate order).

Register can also perform certification work for compliance with the ISPS Code, and on behalf of other maritime administrations, not specified above, subject to prior agreement with them:

- Examination and approval of ship security plans and amendments;
- Checking the ship to the relevant chapters of SOLAS Chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code;
- Issuance of international certificates and proof of Ship.

In its work the Shipping Register of Ukraine always tends to a constant, and greater customer satisfaction and continual improvement of the effectiveness of its internal quality control system, which was developed and implemented in 2000 and is maintained and improved so far.

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