

New DNV Standards for U.S. Fishing Vessels

Seattle: DNV Issues New Certification Standards for U.S. Fishing Vessels.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics have both ranked the commercial fishing industry as the most dangerous occupation in the United States. In response to this, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-281) required that commercial U.S. fishing vessels over 50 feet in length are to be surveyed and classed by a USCG recognized Classification Society. The law will be enforced for all new U.S. fishing boats built after July 1, 2012, operating beyond 3 nautical miles from shore.

In a largely unregulated industry, the families sailing domestic fishing vessels have provided the United States with fresh seafood for many generations. DNV Americas, leveraging Norway's long-standing legacy as a fishing nation, has responded with understanding and a keen appreciation for fishing vessel safety. From the beginning, it was clear to DNV that its U.S. domestic fishing vessel rules would have to serve the real world in which the boat builders and owners work. DNV also realized that the U.S. rules must recognize the USCG's long standing regulatory efforts intended to increase fishing vessel safety. Over the course of this year, DNV through many public meetings and with input from the USCG, boat owners and boat builders, has crafted a certification standard that will move commercial F/V safety forward significantly.

Today, at the Pacific Marine Expo 2011, DNV announced the interim draft version of its fishing vessel rules, *Standard for Certification IUSFV, Domestic Fishing Vessels – U.S. Waters.* DNV will continue to revise the rules based on stakeholder comments, and is already developing simplified implementation procedures to help commercial boat builders and owners establish the processes and documentation that classed vessels require. DNV recognizes that many fishing boats are individually owned and has been sensitive to the costs of regulation from the very beginning. DNV, in cooperation with the industry, will work hard over the coming months to publish rules that offer commercially viable safety choices for U.S. fishing vessels.

About DNV:

DNV is a global provider of services for managing risk, with safeguarding life, property and the environment as our purpose. Organized as an independent and autonomous foundation with no proprietors, DNV balances the needs of business and society, based on its independence and integrity.

DNV serves a range of high-risk industries, with a special focus on the maritime and energy sectors. In addition, DNV has expert knowledge in pipeline safety, renewable energy (especially wind and solar), and climate change.

DNV press release

17 November 2011

DNV has been authorized by governments and national authorities to provide services in countries worldwide, including independent investigations, audits and surveys, especially within in the area of advanced technologies.

Established in 1864, the company has a global presence with a network of 300 offices in 100 countries, and is headquartered in Oslo, Norway. Our prime assets are the knowledge and expertise of its 9,000 employees from more than 80 nations. In the US, DNV has more than 700 employees, of which about half are based in Houston. DNV has operated in the US since 1898.

Contacts:

Blaine Collins

*Director of External Affairs, Division Americas and Sub-Saharan Africa
e-mail: [Blaine.Collins @dnv.com](mailto:Blaine.Collins@dnv.com)*

+1 201-512-8900 (Office)

+1 845-270-4831 (Cell)

Aage Enghaug

*Communications Director DNV
e-mail: Aage.enghaug@dnv.com
Tel: +47 918-43-063*