POSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL USERS GROUP (IUG)

The International Standard for Maritime Pilot Organizations (ISPO)

The International Standard for Maritime Pilot Organizations (ISPO) is an independent and voluntary management system framework, developed and maintained by pilots, for pilots, with the purpose of strengthening the safety of navigation through well-managed, high-quality pilotage services.

ISPO has been developed specifically for maritime pilot organizations and reflects the operational characteristics and professional environment in which pilotage services are delivered. The framework supports organizations in managing and improving processes related to areas such as competence management, operational support, risk management, organizational learning and continual improvement.

ISPO is intended to complement, not replace, applicable legislation, regulatory requirements, professional practices or other management system standards. The implementation of ISPO is voluntary and pilot organizations may integrate the framework with other management systems or apply alternative approaches that suit their organizational objectives and local circumstances.

Independence, governance and cooperation

The International Users Group (IUG) is an independent, non-profit organization responsible for the maintenance, interpretation and development of ISPO. ISPO is a user-driven framework governed through the IUG and its member organizations, which actively implement and apply the Code in practice. The standard is developed and maintained through their collective operational experience, practical application and professional knowledge.

The IUG recognizes the value of dialogue and cooperation with pilot organizations, representative bodies, regulators, certification bodies, academic institutions and other maritime stakeholders. Constructive cooperation may include the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices relating to safety, quality, competence development and organizational performance.

The IUG welcomes external perspectives and input that may contribute to the ongoing development of ISPO. Any cooperation with external organisations or stakeholders shall be consultative and non-binding in nature and shall not confer any governance, approval, interpretative or decision-making authority in respect of the ISPO Code. The governance, maintenance, interpretation and development of ISPO shall remain the exclusive responsibility of the IUG in accordance with its established arrangements, thereby safeguarding the independence, consistency and practical applicability of the standard while remaining open to constructive dialogue and cooperation.

Application of ISPO

ISPO is intended as a voluntary framework supporting continuous improvement, transparency, quality and safety management within pilot organizations.

ISPO does not seek to become mandatory through legislation or regulation. Where an authority refers to ISPO within a regulatory framework, a valid ISPO certificate should be regarded as evidence of conformity with the requirements of the Code.

The Code is not intended as a disciplinary instrument, nor as a commercial tool.

Closing statement

ISPO is an independent, voluntary and non-commercial framework developed and maintained by pilot organizations for pilot organizations.

The IUG remains committed to maintaining ISPO as an independent, voluntary and non-commercial framework for maritime pilot organizations and welcomes constructive cooperation with stakeholders that contributes to its ongoing development.

Through this approach, ISPO supports transparency, quality, safety management and continual improvement within maritime pilot organizations.

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