

The IAPH LNG bunker supplier accreditation model

General

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) bunker operations are a new phenomenon in ports and the adjacent areas. Not all activities of LNG bunker suppliers are covered in the presently existing port safety systems such as port regulations (byelaws) and procedures. Accreditation is a well-known instrument to impose safety procedures and quality requirements for bunker companies.

An accreditation system for LNG bunker suppliers has the objective to impose safe operations, to recognize good bunker suppliers and to have a deterrent effect on malpractice in the industry. In such a system, LNG bunker suppliers have to comply with the port's accreditation qualifications in order to attain a license for performing LNG bunker operations.

The 'IAPH LNG Fuelled Vessels Working Group' has developed an LNG bunker suppliers accreditation model which ports can use as a base for their accreditation system. Details of such a system are to be filled in by the ports themselves, taking national and local requirements in to account. Accreditation should be additional to existing requirements and should not create superfluous legal requirements.

The working group advises the use of an accreditation system by ports in order to ensure safe LNG bunker operations in their port areas. A port's specific accreditation system may contain the requirements as mentioned in the model below.

Model requirements

The company:

- Has an ISO 9001, or alternative, certified quality assurance system (QAS) in place.
The quality assurance system includes, but is not limited to:
 - Status with regards to key performance indicators (KPIs); i.e. operation and customer feedback report system;
 - Environmental performance system;
 - Near misses and incident reporting system;
 - Maintenance system for LNG bunker equipment;
 - Training of personnel.
- Has a certain paid-up capital as required by the port;
- Has to be sufficiently insured;
- Agrees with an initial audit and regular audits as held by the port;
- Reports as required by the port.

The equipment:

- Has to be (ISO) certified;
- Has regular maintenance as per the quality assurance system;

The personnel:

- Has to be sufficiently trained. Requirements with regards to educational topics:
 - LNG in general;
 - LNG risk characteristics;
 - LNG bunker operations risk characteristics;
 - Emergency response;
 - Operations manual of the bunker supply company in question;
 - Local requirements (*Port dependable – Port byelaws*);
- Has to be acquainted with the languages as spoken in the port (*Port dependable*).

The LNG bunker operation:

- Has been analysed by risk assessments (Hazid/Hazop/QRA);
- Has procedures that are stated in an operations manual. The manual is approved by a third party (for instance the port or a classification society);