

**Question No.1 Indicate the difference among classification survey, registration survey and under writers survey; and enumerate the important checks performed by the classification society on a ship.**



**Solution:** Difference among classification survey, registration survey and under writers survey done by the classification society can be understood by following.

Registration is carried out by registers at the port of registry and each registrar is required to prepare a monthly return of the registrars and other current action on their register. Such information is to be submitted by the registrars to the officer in charge of the Ministry of Shipping. Before a ship can be registered it must be surveyed. This is done by a surveyor of ships duly appointed by the registering authority. The preparation of pre-registration survey is to establish an accurate description of ship for the registrar. This includes the vessels registered tonnage.

Apart from the official requirement of registration, almost all ocean going ships are classed and registered with one or other classification societies. Such registration is not compulsory but it is so advantageous that an un-classed ship is virtually non-existent now-a-days. In the absence of classification, a lot of difficulty would be experienced by underwriters, chartering brokers, bankers, merchants and shippers and others who have ready access to the latest and most reliable information regarding the ship in which they are interested. Ship owners would also be at a disadvantage if there existed no reliable organisation to check and certify whether their ships were considered, repaired and

maintained in accordance with the highest prevailing standards and were in conformity with the international Regulations

Surveys undertaken by classification societies should not be confused with survey by the authorised representative of government for registration or with surveys by representative of under-writers. Whils classification surveys are undertaken to ensure that the ship adheres to the norms and maintains its gradation of class, the objective of survey for registration is just to check the measurement. Similarly, the objective of under-writer's survey is to verify the expressed warranty declared by the assured.

These days, when shipping industry is undergoing rapid progress with the adoption of latest technology, the under-writers would be very reluctant to issuer the ship if the same has not been assured a gradation class by the authorised classification societies. Not only that, the premium is dependent on the class a ship has. High class assigned by

classification society implies that the ship adheres to the highest standards of construction and maintenance. Naturally the premium for such ship would be proportionally low as compared to a ship with an average class. Thus, classification of a ship by a classification society is of paramount importance. As a matter of fact, in the absence of classification, it would be literally impossible for a ship owner to insure his ship. No merchant would be willing to transport his merchandise on a ship which is not classed and resultantly uninsured because the cargo under-writers will not insure the merchandise if the same is transported on a ship which is uninsured and unclassed.

### **Important Checks That A Classification Society Does On A Ship**

Following are some of the important checks that a classification society does on a ship:

1. Supervision of checking on the anchors of chain
2. Supervision of testing the steel used in the construction of a ship and its boilers, and in case of large ships their engine, forgings and castings
3. The supervision of laying of keel
4. Survey of registration machinery and appliances
5. Survey and measurement of a ship
6. Survey of ship hull and machinery
7. Survey of safety appliances and emergency gates

### **Classification Societies**

Some of the well known classification societies are :

1. American Bureau of shipping
2. Bureau Veritas
3. Indian Register of Shipping
4. Japanese Marine Corporation
5. Norske Veritas
6. Registro Italiano
7. Lloyds of London