

How OCIMF adds value at the IMO



What is the IMO?

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the United Nations agency responsible for improving maritime safety and preventing pollution from shipping.

The IMO's main task has been to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping. Its remit today includes safety, environmental concerns, legal matters, technical cooperation, maritime security and the efficiency of shipping.

While the Assembly sets the direction for the organisation and the Council decides on the detailed two-year work programme, much of the technical work to update existing legislation or develop and adopt new regulations is conducted by the IMO's specialised committees and sub-committees. Meetings are attended by maritime experts from member governments, together with those from interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, including OCIMF. OCIMF has enjoyed consultative status since 1971.

In addition, OCIMF and members participate at different stages of discussion, such as at the correspondence groups that are organised between the formal meeting sessions. While the committees decide on technical matters, the technical details are delegated to the sub-committees who then form working groups for experts to work through issues in greater detail. Input can be provided and decisions challenged at every stage. This gives OCIMF many opportunities to contribute.



What is OCIMF's role?

OCIMF provides the IMO with specific technical input on those aspects of the IMO programme that relate to OCIMF's mission – to be the foremost authority on the safe and environmentally responsible operation of oil tankers, terminals and offshore support vessels, promoting continuous improvement in standards of design and operation.

OCIMF attends all the relevant IMO meetings so that it can properly represent the views of its members. As a result, it is active at all levels of the IMO, from the Assembly and Council to the committees, sub-committees and correspondence groups.

Once the IMO has decided what issues will be addressed during the next two-year programme, OCIMF engages with its members on these issues, analyses all the potential implications and agrees with members the nature and direction of OCIMF's input. The aim is to provide IMO with well-reasoned and well-structured arguments that help the organisation arrive at effective, workable regulations that also deliver OCIMF objectives relating to safety and environmental protection.

Involvement in the sub-committees and correspondence groups is especially vital. It is here that the practical experience and technical knowledge of OCIMF and its members can be applied most effectively as issues are worked through and detailed proposals developed.

OCIMF keeps all its members continually informed of the issues that the IMO has identified for action and of the progress with the work of the committees, sub-committees and correspondence groups. Individuals from the OCIMF Secretariat or from member companies who participate in correspondence groups also feed information on IMO activities directly in to their relevant OCIMF committees.



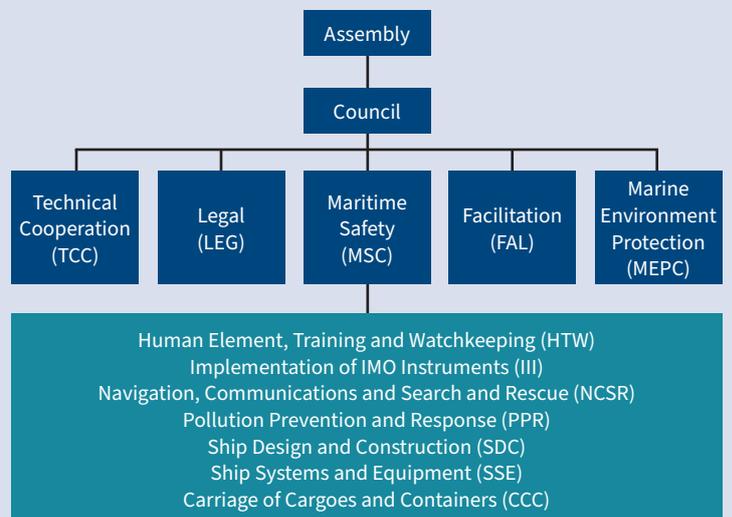
What are the benefits?

OCIMF uses its technical knowledge and experience to fully understand both the issues the IMO chooses to address and the potential impact of proposed regulation on the businesses and activities of OCIMF members. In particular, OCIMF brings together the considerable expertise and experience of both the OCIMF Secretariat and its members to provide a powerful voice within the IMO to argue for regulation that provides practicable, effective ways of enhancing safety and environmental protection.

OCIMF's aim is to be recognised and welcomed by the IMO as a trusted adviser with expert industry knowledge. In this way OCIMF is able to build closer relationships with the permanent Secretariat of the IMO. OCIMF gives its members the opportunity to provide input in a timely fashion by keeping them continually informed at all stages of the IMO's activities.

OCIMF provides subject matter experts from member companies with a route to participate fully in IMO activities, working an issue through from understanding its implications to developing proposals and following their journey to inclusion in new regulations. This represents a significant personal development opportunity and builds valuable long-term relationships. By interacting with a broad range of other specialists, the subject matter expert also grows their own knowledge, enhancing their ability to continuously improve their company's operations.

Above all, it is the longevity, quality and continuity of input that is of benefit both to the IMO and to OCIMF members – helping everyone work together to deliver improved safety and environmental protection for tankers, offshore vessels and marine terminals.



The IMO consists of an intergovernmental Assembly that meets every two years, a permanent Council elected by the Assembly and five main committees: the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC); the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC); the Legal Committee (LEG); the Technical Co-operation Committee (TCC); and the Facilitation Committee (FAL). A number of sub-committees support the work of the MSC and the MEPC. OCIMF attends all relevant IMO meetings to argue the case for practical and workable regulations that enhance safety and environmental protection. This includes Assembly, Council, MSC, LEG, FAL, TCC and MEPC and the sub-committees CCC, HTW, III, NCSR, PPR, SDC and SSE.

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