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OCEAN GUARDIAN

Navigating the Complexities of Compliance



HELPING TO NAVIGATE the highly complex and ever-evolving environmental regulatory landscape is Ocean Guardian. The system takes the guesswork out of environmental compliance, providing ship operators and fleet managers with immediate and accurate information about regulations relating to a specific vessel's location.

Developed by **Total Marine Solutions**, in collaboration with **Brenock**, Ocean Guardian was launched at CMA Shipping 2017 and is the first platform to digitize the regulatory environment in a way that is not only reliable but also easy to use. Through an easy to use red, yellow, green system of notifications, operators can easily understand what kind of waste can be discharged and where.

"More than a digital database, Ocean

Guardian brings together innovative technologies to simplify and enhance compliance operations for vessels all over the world. We wanted to build something collaborative for the entire industry, not just one sector. After all, sustainable compliance requires all of us to work together," said Alexandra Anagnostis-Irons, owner of Total Marine Solutions (pictured).

Among Ocean Guardian's innovative features is its digital regulatory database, which includes more than 2,500 international, national, regional, local and port environmental regulations. It is kept up-to-date by marine professionals and vetted by a third-party maritime firm to ensure that ship operators have the most current information available. Clients can upload company specific regulations into the system, allowing company policies to be rolled out or updated fleetwide in a matter of minutes.

Another key feature is the voyage planning aspect that allows users to look up regulatory guidance for any location in the world. This is beneficial for voyage planning, especially through waters a vessel does not often frequent or where regulations are changing. It is also extremely beneficial when a vessel is taken off course due to weather, medical emergency or conditions at sea.

Additionally, Ocean Guardian also includes the Port Administration module, where basic port contact information is available, as well as port specific information regarding waste handling facilities. The module allows clients to upload company specific documents for individual ports, as well as tariff documents or other port specific paperwork. This information makes a ship better prepared for a port call and less likely

to have a non-compliant discharge during a stay in port. Ocean Guardian recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TGM Fleet & Consulting Services to strengthen and promote the development of port specific information into Ocean Guardian. Ocean Guardian will work with TGM to implement mutually beneficial programs, projects and activities designed to promote the recognition of vetted port reception facilities around the world.

"In today's maritime operating environment where regulatory compliance and overload is an ongoing challenge, TMS' Ocean Guardian is a very bright light at the end of a very long tunnel," says Kathy Metcalf, CEO of the Chamber of Shipping of America.

"It is a critical compliance tool for a shipowner and their crews because it informs both as to what international, national and local requirements are applicable in specific locations," adds Metcalf. "As a legal professional that runs a maritime trade association, I can attest to the constant challenge of determining what current requirements will be implemented in the future. Having sailed as a deck officer, I can also guarantee that senior ship management must be focused on the safe and environmentally responsible performance of their vessel and not be relegated to their stateroom doing legal research on these ever-changing regulatory landscapes. Ocean Guardian does just that and allows vessel personnel to concentrate on their most important responsibility - the safe and environmentally responsible operation of their vessel and protection of their passengers and crew."

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