



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTARCTICA TOUR OPERATORS

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A member organization founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic

NEWS RELEASE

Facing the Challenge – a joint IAATO-Lloyd’s Register workshop to prepare for the Polar Code

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 16 June, 2015.

Newport, Rhode Island, USA: A dynamic, interactive and constructive workshop on how to tackle implementing the forthcoming International Maritime Organization (IMO)’s Polar Code has just concluded. Fittingly, the workshop took place at London’s home of exploration, the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington.

The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO)-Lloyd’s Register facilitated workshop brought together experienced polar captains, nautical managers and executives from over 21 companies who are members of IAATO, Cruise Line International Association (CLIA) and the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators (AECO) with representatives from the regulatory, insurance, research and resupply community.

The workshop included an important scene-setting element, which provided a forum to discuss the challenges facing flag Administrations, Classification Societies, insurance companies and operators on how to develop the tools required to implement the Polar Code in a practical, effective way. The workshop continued with a two-day Lloyd’s Risk Assessor-facilitated session focusing on the assessment processes needed to support the development of a Polar Waters Operations Manual and define the operational limitations.

The shared goal between the meeting participants was to address the challenge of implementing the Polar Code. Rob Hindley of Lloyd’s Register said, “this workshop is an important opportunity to address the challenges which Flag Administrations and Classification Societies will face to work towards consistent and applicable procedures before the Code comes into force.”

Mark van der Hulst of Oceanwide Expeditions and Chair of IAATO’s Marine Committee added, “this workshop is another good example of IAATO, CLIA and AECO member operators proactively working together, sharing experiences and developing industry best practices” further noting that the workshop was an excellent start to a long and interesting process.



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Issued by the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators.

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Notes for Editors:

The IMO adopted the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code), and related amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), in November 2014.

The expected date of entry into force is 1 January 2017.

For more information, see www.imo.org

About IAATO

IAATO is a member organization founded in 1991 to advocate, promote and practice safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic. IAATO currently has 121 members. IAATO Members work together to develop, adopt and implement operational standards that mitigate potential environmental impacts. Numerous guidelines have been adopted over the last 20 years that have proven to be successful methods in avoiding such impacts. These include but are not limited to: site specific guidelines, site selection criteria, passenger to staff ratios, limiting numbers of passengers ashore, boot washing guidelines and the prevention of the transmission of alien organisms, wilderness etiquette, garbage policy, ship scheduling and vessel communication procedures, emergency medical evacuation procedures, emergency contingency plans, reporting procedures, marine wildlife watching guidelines, station visitation policies and more.