



MASTERCLASS **SHIPMAN & CREWMAN**

Hamburg, Germany
20-21 May 2026



MASTERCLASS SHIPMAN & CREWMAN

BIMCO

TRAINING

PROGRAMME

DAY 1

09:00-09:30

Introduction to the documentary work of BIMCO:

- Drafting BIMCO standard contracts and clauses
- Explanatory notes and industry consultations
- Update on upcoming BIMCO contracts and clauses.

09:30-10:30

SHIPMAN/CREWMAN within the contractual structure of international trade:

- Charter parties and bills of lading
- Sale contracts and letters of credit
- Marine Insurance in relation to ship management
- The role of ship and crew managers against shipowners' obligations within the wider structure of international trade
- Latest iterations of SHIPMAN/CREWMAN and the offspring contracts, including SUPERMAN, LAYUPMAN, AUTOSHIPMAN.

10:30-10:45 *Break*

10:45-12:15

The role of English Law in ship and crew management contracts and dispute resolution:

- Contract/no contract, when is the agreement binding?
- Privity of contract and the effect on third parties not part of the contractual chain; The Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999
- Termination of the contracts in general and ship management contract in particular
- Damages and tort
- Compensation for breaches under the contracts
- Dispute resolution
- Good document management - the key to effectively defending and pursuing claims
- The cost and complexity of litigation - what can be expected
- Settlement, mediation, and litigation strategy – managing costs.

12:15-13:15 *Lunch*

13:15-14:45

Ship and crew management contracts – basic principles:

- The ship and crew managers' obligations
- The shipowners' (carriers') obligations
- Force majeure and "hardship" clauses. Breach of contract and "frustration".

14:45-15:15 *Break*

15:15-16:45

Ship and crew managers' role as agents and independent contractors:

- Definitions of "agency" as a concept under English Law
- Commencement and appointment
- Authority of the managers - "As Managers Only" (SHIPMAN/CREWMAN A)
- Managers employing crew as independent contractors (CREWMAN B)
- Disputes between shipowners and third-party contractors/suppliers
- Standard of performance and the meaning of "Best Endeavours" in performing ship and crew management contracts
- ISM/ISPS compliance - managers as DOC holder.

16:45-17:00

Wrapping up and take away points day 1

19:00

Informal networking dinner (paid by participants individually)

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DAY 2

09:00-10:00

Financial aspects of SHIPMAN/CREWMAN:

- Cost plus fee vs. lump sum structure
- Provisions affecting budgeting and expenditure; Annex C
- Examples of disputes related to management fees
- Shipmanagers' Letter of Undertaking (LoU) – Overview
- Phishing email scams.

10:00-10:45

Decarbonisation in a ship management context:

- ETS and FuelEU
- Who is the responsible party and when can the parties agree to delegate?
- Impact of delegation on obligations and financial exposure
- BIMCO ETS Clause, ETS Mandate and FuelEU Clause for SHIPMAN.

10:45-11:00 *Break*

11:00-12:15

Contract management SHIPMAN/CREWMAN:

- Insurance provisions and the importance of being listed as co-assured when acting as a ship manager
- Shipmanagement contracts in the energy industry and knock-for-knock liability; Definitions of employees, property gross negligence
- Obligations, liabilities, and exposure of the crew manager
- Limitation of liability as the ship and manager – an aggregate amount
- Liability for acts or omissions by crew.

12:15-13:15 *Lunch*

13:15-14:45

Termination of SHIPMAN/CREWMAN contracts:

- Termination by agreement – an evergreen agreement
- Notice periods and minimum contract periods
- Termination for cause
- Extraordinary termination
- Notice to party in default requiring them to remedy the default within "a reasonable time period"
- Real life example of dispute in relation to termination.

14:45-15:15 *Break*

15:15-16:45

Case study –

Walk through of a ship/crew management dispute with practical solutions suggested:

Participants will work in small groups on a case study, to find solutions to a common commercial dispute. The trainers and participants will discuss the problems arising from the scenario and will look for input from the course participants and jointly the trainers and participants will look for solutions to the problems and disputes in the case study.

16:45-17:00

Wrapping up and take away points day 2



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SPEAKERS



Manolis Nicolaou

Manolis Nicolaou comes to shipping from a legal background, having studied law in the UK and at the University of Bristol. Following an initial period of working for law firms in Cyprus related to shipping and commercial/company law, he then focused on marine insurance related matters. Having worked across various disciplines in the field, including claims handling, brokering, and loss adjusting, he joined Columbia Ship management Ltd as a Claims Officer in the Insurance and Claims department.

As Columbia's Legal Counsel, he has a broad range of legal duties – which include negotiating and drafting the wording of ship management agreements based on the BIMCO template.



Michael Elwert

Capt. Michael P. Elwert has worked in the global shipping industry his entire working life and has over three decades of international management experience within the maritime industry. He gained his education with Maersk in Copenhagen and grew his global shipping acumen and exposure working in Denmark, the UK, Norway, South Africa, the USA, Singapore, Korea, and Japan, as well as several other countries in Asia.

As Global Chief Operating Officer and Deputy CEO of V. ships, Michael was responsible for leading cross-functional efforts to drive scale, organisational alignment, efficiency, customer advocacy and consistent flawless service delivery across the V Group's ship management BU's.

He is currently based in Cyprus and acts in a dual role as an Executive Director and Group COO for InterMaritime Shipmanagement Group, being the newly merged ship management company of Intership, Donnelly Tankers and Interorient.

Michael has held various senior executive positions with Maersk, Thome Group, the Danish Shipowners' Association and BIMCO, and holds an EMBA in Shipping & Logistics from CBS in Copenhagen (The Blue MBA) and was a founding partner of the International CBS Executive "Blue" Board Leadership Program.



Geraldine Koon

Geraldine Koon is a solicitor qualified in England and Wales who joined ITIC as a senior claims' executive. She previously worked in private practice at Ince (London and Paris) and MFB Solicitors for 8 years, handling a wide range of shipping and commercial disputes on behalf of owners, charterers, cargo claimants, P&I Clubs, H&M underwriters and other insurers, with a particular focus on casualty work. She regularly acted on behalf of clients in arbitration proceedings and the English Courts and assisted with resolving disputes via settlement discussions and mediations.

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Peter Grube

Peter Grube is Training Manager at BIMCO, where he develops and delivers BIMCO courses and seminars worldwide. As part of a long-term succession plan, he stepped down as Head of BIMCO Training in 2025 and continues to contribute to the team in a part-time role, focusing on programme development and delivery.

Peter joined BIMCO's Support & Advice department in 1990 and later became Marketing & Sales Director for membership and products, driving BIMCO's global position as a leading membership and shipping organisation. Before joining BIMCO, he worked at a shipowning office in Copenhagen and as a Sale & Purchase broker in Greece.

He is a graduate of the Danish School for International Marketing & Export, a Chartered Shipbroker (FICS), and holds a Master's in Education and Learning from Roskilde University (RUC).

Where will the course be held?

The course venue will be confirmed approximately 8 weeks before the start of the course so we can find a suitable venue for the number of participants.



For more information, please contact:

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