

PRESSRELEASE

MAERSK FIRST VERIFIED CARRIER IN THE CLEAN SHIPPING INDEX

The Clean Shipping Index is a web-based tool developed for cargo owners to put environmental demands on their shipping services. The Index is created in Gothenburg, Sweden and covers a number of different pollutants from shipping. The Clean Shipping Index has now a global reach with 30 large international cargo owners – the Clean Shipping Network – and around 45 world wide shipping companies have submitted environmental performance data regarding their vessels to the Index. Maersk Line, the largest carrier in the world, is the first shipping company to get verified as a carrier in the Index by a third party – Lloyds Register in London.

The Clean Shipping Index is developed in the west of Sweden¹. The objective is to create a simple, web-based tool for large cargo owners to take environmental considerations but also to put environmental demands when purchasing shipping services for their products (www.cleanshippingproject.se).

Shipping has a potential to be an environmental sound means of transport. However shipping is today encumbered with a number of health and environmental problems. Coordinated demands from a large group of cargo owners may well be a strong driving force to environmental enhancement of the shipping business and be beneficial for quality shipping for example by offering larger market shares.

The Clean Shipping Index has a holistic view on ship emissions and is covering parameters like carbon dioxide (CO₂), sulphur dioxides and particulate matter (SO₂ and PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), chemical products and waste&water. Shipping companies may log in to the Clean Shipping Index database and submit information on these parameters for their vessels. Both vessels and carriers get ranked by a scoring system built into the index.

An uncertainty for cargo owners using the Index in the procurement of shipping services, is the validity of the data entered. Therefore a verification procedure of vessel and carrier data by a third party has been developed within the Index. Maersk Line, which is the largest carrier in the world, is the first company to get verified as a carrier according to these guidelines.

- It is an absolute need to have verified environmental data in a selection process of carriers for our products”, says Stefan Bodelind, Global Sourcing Manager Sea Containers at AkzoNobel, the large Dutch paint and chemical manufacturer and also a member of the Clean Shipping Network. “If we fully can trust the information it is easier to take serious environmental decisions with sometimes large economical consequences”.

The verification of Maersk data as a carrier has been a process with random inspections of vessels all over the world. This has been done by Lloyds Register in London which is one of so far three classification societies accredited to make verification according to the Clean Shipping Index.

- Transparency of performance is vital and it is impossible to progress if you don't know where you are. Lloyd's Register is delighted by the success of the Clean Shipping Index in establishing a framework for reporting environmental and efficiency data." says Peter Catchpole, Principal Environmental Specialist of the Lloyds Register. "Lloyd's Register hopes that the availability of clearly presented, verified information on ships and shipping companies' environment performance will increasingly result in commercial benefit for those ship operators that demonstrate "beyond compliance" environmental performance".

Today there are over 1600 vessels submitted to the index by 45 large shipping companies or operators. New vessels are entered on a daily basis. It is free for any shipping company to get a login and enter data into the index. For many environmentally devoted shipping companies it is also a benchmark tool to see how they rank among other shipping companies and also an internal tool to control how they perform not only on CO2 but a whole lot of other parameters.

30 large international cargo owners are making up the Clean Shipping Network, the organization that today run the Clean Shipping Index. A Letter of Intent has to be signed to become a member, where the entering criteria how to use the index is defined. Other stakeholders like forwarders and ports may also get access to environmental information on a voluntary basis.

Göran Bengtsson, chairman of the Clean Shipping Network says: - We are happy that Maersk has taken this initiative and we believe it is a great breakthrough for the Network. If the worlds' largest carrier can verify its data, there is no excuse for any other shipping company not to carry through this process. And for certain it is the transparent shipping companies with serious environmental ambitions who will be the winners of this business".

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¹The Region Västra Götaland, the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland, the Göteborg Region Association of Local Authorities, the Environment Administration in the City of Gothenburg and Port of Gothenburg.