

Clean Shipping

A "win-win" project for cargo owners, quality shipping and the environment

Shipping is basically an environmentally sound way of transporting goods as it is energy effective and has low demands on the infrastructure compared to other modes of transport. However, as shipping has an international character, it has been accented from the environmental demands that land based industries and traffic have been forced to meet. Shipping is today a source of immense disturbances for humans and the environment.

Clean Shipping Project started in 2007 with the aim to create a tool for large Swedish cargo owners in order to environmentally evaluate the cargo transportations by sea. The aim was also to simplify the procurement process by coordinating the questions from the cargo owners and support the quality shipping industry. Given time, this could contribute to a faster and positive environmental development for the whole industry.

The initiative was taken regionally in Gothenburg and on the West Coast of Sweden through Region Västra Götaland, the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland, the Göteborg Region Association of Local Authorities and Business Region Göteborg. EU's regional structural fund has been a significant co-sponsor.

Clean Shipping Index

The project developed an environmental evaluation index - the Clean Shipping Index - which focuses on the five areas CO₂, SO₂ and particulate matter, NO_x, chemicals and water and waste management. Within these areas there are 20 substantial questions

to be answered. The answers are evaluated and 30 points is the highest score to be reached in every subarea. Scientifically it can be difficult to give points and compare different types of environmental measures or emissions. However, it can give a sufficient picture on what a vessel or shipping company can achieve environmentally in order to start a procurement discussion.

Parallel with this work, the project contacted a large number of Swedish export and import companies to investigate their interest for participation. The response was overwhelming and today 23 of Sweden's largest companies, such as Volvo, SKF, ABB, Preem, Tetra Laval, H&M and Ericsson are members to the Clean Shipping Network (check out www.cleanshippingproject.se).

A common database

The first index was presented on the Clean Shipping website in June 2008. The members of the network wrote a letter to all their contracted and possible future shipping companies and asked for their environmental information through Excel sheets. This information was then put in a common database which all members of the network had access to. Some shipping companies demanded however that only the members of the network could have access to the information in the database.

Currently just over half of the inquired 70 shipping companies and ten of the 14 largest container transporting shipping companies on the world market have presented information to the database. However, most of them only have reported parts of their fleet.

Revision of the index

A revised index was published on the Clean Shipping web site in January 2010. There are changes to the evaluation of CO₂ and SO_x. For CO₂ the base of the evaluation is changed from taken measures to performance compared to a reference. When it comes to SO_x, points will be received at higher sulphur content in the fuel than before.

The database has been updated so that every shipping company has a unique password and can log on to their page. The shipping company can also see how well they perform compared to other shipping companies without being able to identify the companies.

Verification of data

A third part verification is needed in order to have high credibility for the submitted data. A verification procedure is developed on a number of vessels and is now offered as a service by a classification society - Lloyd's registry in the UK-. The aim is that this should be a simple verification process which can be offered by many different classification societies.

During 2010 the project opens the network for international companies outside Sweden. Hopefully shipping companies will send more information on their vessels as the new way of submitting information is simple. Another target is also to give high quality and environment shipping larger market shares, not just towards other shipping companies but also to other modes of transport.

Hopefully shipping will get a push forward through the Clean Shipping Project.

