Witherbys Publish Workbook for On Board Cyber Security

Witherby Publishing Group have released a practical, straightforward and easy to understand workbook to support the Master and the ship's crew with cyber security risk management.

Cyber Security Workbook for On Board Ship Use. 1st Edition provides detailed guidance on all aspects of cyber security protection, defence and response as well as comprehensive checklists to assist with the day to day management of onboard cyber security.

This publication, produced by BIMCO, ICS (International Chamber of Shipping) and Witherby Publishing Group addresses the fact that in recent years the shipping industry has undergone a digital revolution: internet connectivity on board has become common and ship's systems are increasingly digitised and integrated. With this growing level of connection comes greater risk. Ships are now a common target for hackers worldwide and it has become crucial that the entire crew has an understanding of how and when cyber attacks can occur.

Witherbys Technical Director Johan Machtelinckx, commented:

'Ships have been for a very long time completely isolated from the internet. The big change recently for the shipping industry has been the introduction of VSAT systems; the relatively cheap, effective satellite communication to shore. This means we are totally unprepared because for such a long time cyber security was not an issue at all for us. We need to wake up and fast. If you follow the 'hacking community' you can see that these people are very excited with the prospect of a new industry that they can take advantage of. They are becoming more and more knowledgeable on the ship system and see the shipping industry as, I quote, 'a low-hanging fruit' that they can grab easily because of the lack of cyber defence. Attacks could be focused on the control system of the ship, resulting in a danger to life or to the environment which is a really serious threat. There are already a few cases of these attacks so this is not just theoretical. This workbook is effective at dealing with these threats as it is very practical, there is not a lot of theory and it features checklists that you can follow in your day to day job for protecting the ship, making them easy to implement.'

Iain Macneil, Witherby Publishing Group's CEO, added:

'Cyber security on board ships is an important and growing concern and the Cyber Security Workbook operates as a practical and helpful tool in combatting the very real risk of cyber attacks to ship systems. Witherbys are at the frontline of assisting the shipping industry in coping with and responding to new threats and we look forward to continuing to educate ships and crew in dealing with, and avoiding potential cyber attacks.'

The title is available online at www.witherbys.com and other maritime book stockists.

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Notes for editors:

1. Witherby Publishing Group is a specialist publisher of training, reference and regulatory materials, providing the finest books and publications to the shipping, insurance and energy industries. Based in Livingston, Witherbys is one of Scotland's largest and most successful publishing houses, with a portfolio of over 500 specialist titles and export to more than 110 countries.

2. Photos available on request: (1) Iain Macneil, CEO Witherbys

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