



# BIMCO

*The practical voice of shipping*

## SHIPMAN & CREWMAN MASTERCLASS

*This masterclass is designed to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the widely used standard ship and crew management agreements SHIPMAN and CREWMAN A and B.*

 **TRAINING**

**Limassol**  
22–23 October 2025

**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**

## 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

## SPEAKERS

**Michael P. Elwert**

Capt. Michael P. Elwert has worked in the global shipping industry his entire working life and has over two 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 a board member and group COO for internship navigation and Donnelly Tankers. 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).

**Robert Hodge**

Prior to joining ITIM in October 2010, Robert was a claims executive for 3 years with the TT Club, another business managed by the Thomas Miller group. He moved to ITIM as an Account Executive in October 2010. Robert is the account executive responsible for South East Asia, Greece and Monaco. He is a regular contributor to Ship Management International and other publications and sits on various BIMCO documentary subcommittees, including SHIPMAN and AUTOMAN.

**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 Shipmanagement Ltd as a Claims Officer in the Insurance and Claims department. Other than claims handling his duties include sanctions reviews, data protection, as well as negotiating and drafting the wording of the shipmanagement agreements based on the BIMCO template and any related documentation such as managers' undertakings.

## VENUE

### 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.

## ORGANISER



### Christian Hoppe

Christian is BIMCO's General Counsel. He is a lawyer and graduated from the University of Copenhagen with a Master's degree in 2001 and an LL.M. with Distinction from the University of Southampton in 2004. He worked at the Danish Maritime Authority from 2001 until joining the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Transport and Energy in 2005. Christian has been with BIMCO since 2009, providing legal and policy advice inhouse and to members, representing the association at various international meetings and managing a number of contracts and clauses related projects. Christian was seconded to Danish law firm Gorrissen Federspiel from 2017 to 2018 and was admitted to the Danish Bar in February 2019 (practice certificate deposited). From 2022 to 2023, he worked out of BIMCO's Singapore office whilst being part-time seconded to BW Group.

## For more information, please contact:

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The BIMCO logo graphic features a horizontal blue line with a gradient, a small dark blue square in the center, and the word 'BIMCO' in large, bold, dark blue capital letters below it.

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