

SHIPPING NETWORK

The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers

The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS) was founded in 1911, since when it has represented professionals working in all areas of shipping and the maritime industries. Today, it has more than 3,500 members in over sixty countries worldwide. The ICS became a chartered body in 1920, and the term 'chartered shipbroker' is still synonymous today with professional excellence in all aspects of the shipping industry.

The main objective of the ICS is to set and maintain standards in the shipping industry. The ICS has very clear ethical and educational requirements, which are encapsulated by its motto – Our Word Our Bond.

The ICS, through its branches and federation council, addresses those issues that affect its worldwide membership. It provides its members with a voice, and with the opportunity to influence decisions at both a national and international level.

Through its membership of the Federation of National Associations of Ship Brokers and Agents (FONASBA), the ICS plays a leading role in the standardisation and updating of documentary terms and conditions, and in liaising with governments.

The ICS represents shipping interests not only in Europe, but globally, through its network of offices in the UK and overseas, and through its involvement with other international shipping associations. There are currently 25 ICS branches around the world.

The ICS collaborates closely with bodies such as BIMCO, IMO, UNCTAD, Intertanko, Intercargo and the Baltic Exchange. Membership of the ICS (MICS) is a unique, internationally recognised qualification. It is achieved by candidates who pass the ICS qualifying examinations, gain a prescribed amount of work experience, and satisfy the controlling council of their suitability. Examinations are held annually at centres throughout the world, and both the TutorShip Correspondence College and local colleges and distance learning centres provide educational support.

Promotion to fellowship is granted to those members who reach positions of seniority and influence in the shipping industry. A fellow of the ICS is entitled to be designated a 'chartered shipbroker'.