

Case Study

Company: Shell International Safety Management System Compliance

Shell International Trading & Shipping Co Ltd own and operate one of the largest fleets of oil tankers & LNG carriers in the world. Back in 1997, Shell International required a navigation system which would provide efficient passage planning, company-approved passage plans and worked with official Admiralty ARCS charts. PC Maritime adapted Navmaster's passage plan report to allow notes to be recorded for every waypoint and route, and to carry the Shell logo. The customised Navmaster report format ensures compliance with Shell International's Safety Management System which in turn satisfies the ISM Code. 47 tankers were fitted with Navmaster Office for onboard planning and MV Euplecta, a 31,000 tonne oil tanker, was fitted with Navmaster Professional. Euplecta's Master Captain Ben Palmer describes how he uses the system.

"All passages are planned on Navmaster and the different routes saved to memory. This greatly reduces the time used for planning, especially when the vessel is on a regular trading pattern. Plans are printed off and entered into the full version of the current passage plan. Routes are overlaid onto charts in Navmaster and annotated with distances to go, then monitored by direct input from a stand-alone GPS.

The ability to see exactly where the vessel is at any time, and knowing that corrections have been applied, reduces the possibility of human error and can confirm that visual positions are in order.

One of the greatest advantages of the system is the ability to order new charts and receive the permits from PC Maritime by email within two days of request. This has proved its worth on a number of occasions as paper voyage charts are not always available with local suppliers. The method of chart correcting is quick and simple with the use of CD's.

Generally the second officer is left in charge and he will deal with the passage planning and any problems that arise. The other navigation officers use it purely for witnessing the vessel's position.

Overall Navmaster has proved to be an accurate and useful navigational tool which has given us all the information we require."

Captain Ben Palmer Master, Shell International. April 2001

