

The Human Element DVD



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The Human Element DVD was launched at an exclusive premiere screening in London on 20 March. The film, which has been approved by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, offered a unique insight into the role of human behaviour in safety at sea.

The DVD was developed from the award-winning *Human Element book*, which was published in 2010 by a consortium comprising the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, The Standard Club, BP Shipping and Teekay Marine Services. The film took the concepts of the book and developed them, building on the key insights and principles, making them easy for the seafarer and management alike to put to practical use. The DVD is presented in a modular format and includes detailed facilitators' notes, designed to promote thought and discussion amongst viewers between each of the modules.

When I first went to sea many years ago the master was god on his own ship and the culture was not to question his actions or decisions or, indeed, those of any other senior officer. A recipe for disaster! Thankfully, this is not a culture that is very prevalent anymore due to the understanding of the 'human element' and advances in bridge team management. With the knowledge and awareness of how we as individuals react with our surroundings and those colleagues around us, many of the accidents that occur can be easily avoided.

There have been many good publications written on the subject of the 'human element' but in my opinion now we have an excellent visual training aid for the benefit of all, whether on board or ashore in the management organisation.

This DVD is the culmination of efforts of the members of the consortium, applying their technical safety expertise specifically in the 'human element'. The aim was to produce a training film showing how the 'human element' affects our decision making processes with a realistic scenario to which all seafarers and managers can relate. I believe this has successfully been achieved.

Training is not an instant fix to problems within the industry. However, by studying the concepts conveyed in this DVD, this will hopefully lead to a greater understanding of how the 'human element' affects what we do that should be an everyday part of how we work, then the aims will have been achieved.

Members of the Standard Club will be sent a sample of the Human Element DVD in April.

