



# **FIRE TESTING**

## **DBI Maritime Day 2013**

International Ship and Offshore Conference  
hosted by DBI

Copenhagen, Denmark, 21 November 2013

## Marine Equipment Directive prompts product recertification

**The level of technical expertise that was at display at DBI Maritime Day 2013 was cutting-edge and exceptional. The event on November 21st focused on the new fire testing procedures contained in FTP Code 2010—methods that will result in the mandatory recertification of many MED-certified products.**

Stunned silence. This was the participants' first reaction in DBI's auditorium. Then the questions came pouring in.

The day's general theme was the impact of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) FTP Code 2010. FTP stands for 'Fire Test Procedures' and the code—issued in 2010—specifies a series of testing methods for properties such as incombustibility, smoke generation and flammability of materials and products for use onboard ships.

### Products will have to be recertified

Merete Poulsen, certification product manager at DBI, conducted a presentation that elicited a particularly strong response from her audience. She made it clear that the implication of FTP Code 2010 is that products certified under the EU Marine Equipment Directive (MED) will have to be *recertified* even if existing B Certificates have not yet expired.

"The FTP Code 2010 sets out a variety of test method revisions. And MED-certified products will have to be recertified once those new test methods are introduced, irrespective of the particular term of the certificate," Poulsen noted.

The participants were taken aback by this. Most had apparently interpreted the transitional rules quite differently. In Denmark, however, the Danish Maritime Authority—the regulatory agency for such products—has indicated quite plainly that new certificates must be issued once testing methods are revised.

In some cases, data from previous testing can form part of the recertification process. But in others, product retesting will be required under the revised methods.

"We won't actually be able to make that determination until the specific products have been analyzed," Poulsen pointed out.

### Well received

DBI Maritime Day is a new initiative that has been very well received by participants from both Denmark and abroad. Not least because the event went into great depth dealing with a multitude of complicated issues related to fire safety and shipping.

"Our participants were very satisfied with the very high level of technical expertise at the arrangement. Moreover, we based the event around issues that businesses are struggling with in their daily operations as they relate to innovation and product development," says Carsten Møller of DBI, one of the organizers and a research and innovation consultant.

Toward the end of the day, participants could choose between workshops on R&D financing and market conditions. There were also various sessions where participants could sit down for one-on-one consultations with DBI experts—these were in particularly high demand.

"It's always incredibly exciting with a new event like this. Both the participants and the people from DBI arrived with a very positive and constructive mindset, and we managed to generate a lot of food for thought and new ideas," says Møller. He promised that DBI will repeat the success in 2014; this time focusing on the construction industry.



"MED-certified products will need to be recertified once the new testing methods are introduced," Merete Poulsen noted at DBI Maritime Day 2013.



Individual consultations with DBI's experts were in high demand.