



# Before chartering vessels

A full or partial chartering of a vessel should always be preceded by at least one desk top check of the vessel and the shipping company concerned.

There is a connection between the number of deficiencies or detentions and accidents in shipping. It is also widely known that shipping companies with a good quality of corporate management, usually means that the vessels maintain good quality both in competence and technically.

## How to do a desk top vessel check

- Create an account on [www.equasis.org](http://www.equasis.org) or visit sites such as [www.parismou.org](http://www.parismou.org) or [www.tokyo-mou.org](http://www.tokyo-mou.org). However, equasis combines information from these different authority sites.
- Search for a specific ship, ship-owner by name or IMO number.
- Check the flag performance, Paris MOU, Tokyo MOU or USCG. If any of these parties have grey or blacklisted the flag state, then you should take an even closer look at the ship's details and performance in port state controls.
- Check the management details, Classification by [www.iacs.org.uk](http://www.iacs.org.uk) member and P&I information preferably a [www.igpandi.org](http://www.igpandi.org) member. Oil tankers preferably a [www.ocimf.org](http://www.ocimf.org) member.



- Check the inspections and their details. If the number of deficiencies has been high during the last two years, or if the vessel has been detained during the last two years, consider whether or not you should charter this vessel at all due to safety and quality reasons.
- Look at the deficiencies per category, what kind of deficiencies are there? Serious or minor deficiencies? E.g. the oil record book not being properly filled in is not as serious as e.g. structural deficiencies. If in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact the Cargo insurance specialists at If.
- The age of the vessel can also be checked. If the vessels are older than 15 years, you should check for any potential deficiencies, the Classification and the P&I club more carefully. Remember that there are limitations in your insurance policy concerning the age of vessels. An over-aged vessel can be subject to an additional premium.
- More information about the vessel, such as picture as well as news, can be found via the links at the [equasis.org](https://www.equasis.org). e.g. [www.vesseltracker.com](https://www.vesseltracker.com) & [www.marinetraffic.com](https://www.marinetraffic.com)

