Draft Survey

Learn to determine ship cargo quantities accurately: from draught readings to a well-supported survey report.



A small reading error can make a significant difference to the calculated cargo weight. In the Draft Survey course, you will learn how to accurately determine the quantity of cargo loaded or discharged. You will practise taking draught measurements, applying corrections, performing calculations and preparing reports. The course consists of four training days, including the examination.

About this course

Language	Dutch
Education Format	Classroom
Type	Basic

General information

A draft survey determines the quantity of cargo on board a ship by measuring changes in its displacement. Accuracy is essential: depending on the vessel, a draught reading error of just one centimetre can result in a difference of tens of tonnes. This can lead to disputes over cargo quantities and financial claims.

This course teaches you to understand and carry out the complete survey process. You will work with real vessel data, calculation tools and practical examples. You will learn which factors influence the results, how to identify errors and how to justify your calculations.

Experienced instructors guide you in a small group, with time for questions and your own calculation examples. Course materials, calculation tools and the examination are included.

Programme

Days 1–3 – Theory and calculations

You will progress step by step from the fundamentals of hydrostatics to a complete draft survey calculation. You will learn to:

- Read draught marks and process measurement data.
- Use vessel data and hydrostatic tables.
- Apply corrections for trim and hull deflection, including hogging and sagging.
- Account for water density.
- Account for ballast, fuel, fresh water and the ship’s constant.
- Identify sources of error and explain differences between calculations.
- Present results in a clear, verifiable report.

Day 4 – Practical application

You will work through realistic cases and challenging measurement conditions, including waves, currents and poor visibility. You will bring together measurements, corrections and calculations, and learn to explain your decisions.

Day 4 – Examination

The course concludes with an examination in which you demonstrate your understanding of the knowledge and skills covered.

Result

After completing the course, you will be able to carry out and substantiate a complete draft survey. You will be able to take accurate draught readings, apply the relevant corrections and calculate the quantity of cargo loaded or discharged.

You will recognise factors that affect the reliability of the results and explain why surveyors may arrive at different figures. You will document your findings in a clear report, allowing the parties involved to verify your measurements, calculations and conclusions.

Target audience

This course is designed for:

- Inspectors and surveyors who want to deepen their professional knowledge.
- Deck officers with responsibility for cargo operations.
- Employees of terminals, bulk cargo handling facilities and inspection companies.
- Professionals in the bulk sector who want to understand how cargo quantities are determined.

Practical information

Course information	Details
Entry requirements	Basic numeracy skills
Course level	Introductory course
Duration	4 days
Language	Dutch
Examination	Yes
Diploma / Certificate	Yes (STC Next certificate)
Course code	SDS

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