Avoid the risks of conducting business at sea

Any company transporting cargo by sea runs the risk of unwittingly engaging a vessel that may be compromised. This can result in reputational damage, financial loss, the seizure of goods, and fines and penalties. In order to screen for potential vessel-related risk, companies need to know the country in which a vessel is registered, and be able to identify any entities related to or associated with it. This can be difficult as criminals often seek to obscure vessel ownership and/or the destination of shipments.

World-Check One offers Vessel Check, an opt-in vessel-screening solution that combines our market-leading World-Check data with maritime intelligence from IHS Maritime, the largest maritime database in the world, to help identify all individuals and entities related to, or associated with, a particular vessel. Furthermore, with a simple click-through from the World-Check One interface you have the ability to order comprehensive LSEG Due Diligence background reports on any entities flagged during the screening process. The result is a holistic approach to screening, all within one platform.

Mitigate both direct and indirect risks

Vessel screening can help to mitigate direct and indirect risks to investors and agents. Some potential direct risks include engaging a vessel that:

- Appears on a sanctions list, such as that of the U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), or has been associated with alleged illicit activities
- Is a “phantom ship” – a vessel that has been hijacked, stolen, leased or bought and subsequently registered with false information about its identity, ownership, dimensions and/or characteristics
- Is linked to private or public interests in embargoed countries, e.g., Iran

Indirect risks must also be taken into account. These include investing in businesses and partnerships that have subsidiaries or associates with shipping concerns allegedly involved in, or associated with, unethical or illicit activities.

A comprehensive three-step process

Our vessel-screening solution comprises a thorough and rigorous three-stage approach to risk mitigation.

Step 1: Identity, location and ownership screening
Records are screened and verified against IHS Maritime intelligence, which delivers details on all sea-going, self-propelled merchant ships of 100 gross tonnage (GT) and above, irrespective of their classification:

- Includes all International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers
- Information is updated hourly
- Dynamic tracking of ownership, management, name and flag changes of vessels
- Screens for operator, movements, ownership and names, both current and previous

Step 2: Risk screening
Records are screened against World-Check data, which:

- Highlights all maritime vessels appearing on sanctions, watch and enforcement lists, including intelligence on vessels registered in, associated with, or under the flag of an embargoed country or entity
- Contains non-embargoed vessels directly associated with sanctioned countries, entities and individuals, even if these vessels do not appear on any sanctions or enforcement lists
- Contains relevant sea ports in embargoed countries
- Has close links to the databases of major government and transnational maritime surveillance and tracking agencies
- Highlights potential connections to sanctioned entities and individuals and financial crime
- Where relevant, includes records of connected registered owners and beneficial owners
Step 3: Due Diligence background screening  
(optional add-on)

The final step provides you with the option to order a detailed Due Diligence background report on entities you consider suspicious:

- A detailed background check in the form of an Due Diligence Report is enabled should a person or entity be flagged during the screening process
- Reports can be conducted on any person or entity, no matter where they are located
- Our Due Diligence Reports offers considerable expertise in foreign languages and locating hard-to-find information

Leading data sets

Vessel Check combines the unrivalled breadth and depth of IHS Maritime data, which currently lists more than 190,000 vessels, with trusted and accurate risk intelligence on the award-winning World-Check One data screening platform to reveal financial crime-related risk.

Ease and efficiency

As an opt-in feature, Vessel Check offers true ease of use. The single platform approach means that all relevant information is available in one place, and this aids overstretched compliance teams, reducing the strain on resources and boosting efficiency.

Auditability

World-Check One’s Vessel Check automatically creates an audit trail for you to provide regulatory proof of due diligence in respect of vessel screening.

Unmatched breadth of coverage from IHS Maritime

IHS Maritime data covers:

- All ships of 100GT and above
- Over 190,000 ships
- Over 236,000 related companies
- Over 600 fields of data
- Seven levels of ownership
- Over 11 years of vessel history
- Service inspections history

Data is ISO-accredited, meeting the standard of ISO 9001 through certification with BSI.

IHS Maritime data also provides a detailed level of information, including:

- Operator
- Group beneficial owner
- Ship manager

How can LSEG help you manage your vessel screening?

LSEG World-Check

World-Check helps organizations across the world meet their regulatory obligations, make informed decisions and avoid inadvertently being used to launder the proceeds of financial crime or associate with corrupt business practices. The database is managed by a team of over 400 highly trained researchers, speaking more than 60 languages, who monitor over 700 sanctions, regulatory and law enforcement lists and thousands of media sources, as well as company information and regulatory filings, to ensure the data is accurate and up to date. The information is available on a subscription basis to those who require it to carry out due diligence or other screening activities in accordance with their legal or regulatory obligations, or risk management procedures designed to combat financial crime.

LSEG Due Diligence

Our Due Diligence reports offer a greater level of scrutiny of potential business relationships. Reports focus not only on the company, its owners and its operating and litigation history, but also on key management and decision makers, providing insight into their backgrounds, track records, competencies, potential conflicts of interest, and political and criminal links. Business conduct and reputation history are also analysed and a thorough search is made for hidden liabilities. If deemed necessary, additional intelligence can be gathered from industry observers.

We employ local language-speaking specialist researchers and do not use translation software or services. Our researchers not only understand over 60 languages and all of their local nuances, but also appreciate differing local environments and customs.

LSEG Managed Screening

For organisations that lack the time and resources to screen and remediate against their customers and third parties, we offer a managed screening service, which carries out initial screening, remediation and ongoing monitoring on your behalf. We align screening to your risk-based approach and highlight positive and possible matches for third parties against our World-Check database.

As a single supplier of content, software and services, with a strong quality assurance program, we provide a fast and cost-effective outsourced solution for your KYC and third-party risk management.