



GREEN BRIEFING

JUNE 2025 EDITION

Till Date

709

Training Sessions

10,821

Workers Trained

68

Topics Covered



AWARENESS OF THE HONG KONG CONVENTION (HKC)

BUILDING EVERYDAY PRACTICE AROUND THE HONG KONG CONVENTION (HKC)

Ship recycling offers a double dividend: valuable metals are recovered, and the greenhouse-gas footprint of new steel is reduced. On 26 June 2025, the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships entered into force, turning long-debated principles into binding rules that reach every torch cut and crane lift in Alang, Gadani, and Chattogram.



“The Convention is more than paperwork; it is a lifeline for the person holding the torch.”

- Dr. Anand Hiremath, CEO, Sustainable Ship and Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).

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WHAT THE CONVENTION SAYS

The Convention rests on three core pillars: clear responsibilities for governments and industry, enforceable safety regulations, and standardized documentation. Twenty-one articles assign duties to governments, yard owners, and ship owners. Twenty-four regulations focus on the practical side - Inventories of Hazardous Materials (IHM), Ship Recycling Plans (SRP), accident prevention, emergency readiness, and downstream waste tracking. Seven appendices supply the standard forms that turn legal text into checklists and permits.

HKC at a Glance

- 21 Articles
- 7 Appendices
- 24 Regulations
- Entry into force: 26 June 2025

The figures may seem abstract, yet each clause reaches straight into everyday tasks such as tagging a ladder, marking a hot-work exclusion zone, or logging a drum of waste oil.





WHY HKC IS NEEDED

The Convention actively strengthens ship recycling by promoting safe dismantling practices, minimising exposure to hazardous materials like asbestos and PCBs, enhancing safety skills for all workers, and ensuring effective pollution control at tidal sites.

Dr. Anand highlights how the Convention plays a vital role in enhancing safety by setting robust engineering and organisational standards. These proactive measures help prevent serious incidents and create a secure working environment. For example, mandatory safety drills and induction training for new and temporary workers have improved emergency preparedness, reducing confusion and delays during critical operations.

PRACTICAL GAINS FOR WORKERS

Mr. Rahul Singh, SSORP Coordinator in Alang, speaks often about the “ground feel” of the Convention. There are four benefits that the cutter, helper and worker can recognise.

- **Safer work zones:** clearly marked and barricaded areas lower the chance of falls or struck-by injuries.
- **Stronger rights:** grievance channels let staff report hazards without risking dismissal.
- **Cleaner yards:** drainage controls, dust suppression, and waste segregation reduce toxins in air and soil.
- **Better future prospects:** health surveillance and recognised skills open doors to decent wages and long careers.





“Legal text only matters when the man on the scaffold understands why it was written.”
- Mr. Rahul.

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WHAT EACH WORKER MUST DO

Each worker must uphold five core safety responsibilities to maintain safety. Workers must attend scheduled training, wear protective equipment for every task, report unsafe acts, follow written Standard Operating Procedures, and keep the workspace tidy. A tidy deck isn't just clean-it can save lives by keeping escape routes clear from trip hazards, simple actions that prevent chain reactions leading to disaster.

Seven Checks Before the First Cut

1. Gas meter reading is safe.
2. IHM flags any asbestos, PCBs or other hazardous wastes.
3. Harness is anchored to a proper strong point.
4. Drip trays sit under the cut line.
5. A fire watch is in place.
6. Escape route is clear if a plate shifts.
7. The SRP step has been signed off.



Mr. Muhammad Usman, SSORP Coordinator in Pakistan, calls that list “daily armour” for cutters:



“When a worker sees asbestos in the IHM, he can suit up or stand clear. Knowledge is protection.”

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EXPECTATIONS FOR SUPERVISORS AND YARD LEADERS

Mr. Zamil Uddin oversees training in Chattogram and frames the manager’s job in one sentence:



“One loose plate can kill three men, and one missing permit can close a business.”

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Effective yard leadership includes a structured permit-to-work system, SRP, daily toolbox talks, and weekly inspections of equipment ladders, harnesses, respirators, and winches. Logs that cannot be altered after the shift ends build a transparent record for external auditors.

TRAINING THAT TURNS RULES INTO SKILL

Competence grows through structured learning. SSORP delivers free modules on HKC obligations, risk assessment, permit writing, confined-space entry, waste handling, and spill response.

Mr. Amrish Pandey, another SSORP Coordinator in Alang, explains why repetition matters:





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“We fight complacency with repetition, briefings, posters, drills – until the safe way is the only way.”

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PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT: A LINE THAT MUST NOT BE CROSSED

There are three key reasons why proper PPE use is non-negotiable. Proper gear shields against sparks, fibres, sharp edges, and chemical splashes. Consistent use cuts accident rates. Finally, PPE compliance satisfies explicit HKC clauses that inspectors will enforce.

Training sessions coach workers to fit harnesses, check expiry dates on filters, and tag out damaged kit. PPE must be stored properly and regularly inspected to prevent hidden damage. Managers learn to balance stock levels: enough spare harnesses must be on hand so no shift faces the choice between waiting and working unprotected.





HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND MEDICAL CARE

The Convention recognises that some illnesses, such as asbestosis or heavy metal induced nerve damage, develop over the years. Scheduled health checks create baseline data and track exposure-related changes. Health programmes focus on early detection, tailored treatment, and long-term monitoring. Such programmes not only protect workers but also generate statistics that prove to regulators that hazards are under control.

MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

Effective compliance monitoring relies on three key mechanisms: regular inspections, formal audits, and confidential reporting channels. Inspections focus on blocked walkways, missing guards, and uncontrolled sparks. Formal compliance audits verify documents against HKC checklists. Confidential reporting channels let workers flag problems without reprisals.

Failure triggers corrective action plans and can lead to suspension of the Statement of Compliance, which prevents new ships from entering the yard until shortcomings are fixed.

OBSTACLES ON THE PATH TO FULL COMPLIANCE

Common challenges include limited awareness, resistance among some owners who fear cost, patchwork national legislation, and uneven enforcement capacity. These barriers can delay adoption, raise operating expenses, and even destabilise local markets if non-compliant yards undercut those that invest in safety.

Dr. Anand argues that shared learning cuts through most resistance. When one yard demonstrates higher productivity after upgrading worker safety, infrastructure, drainage and ventilation, neighbours soon follow.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Success is counted in real numbers. Progress is measured through key indicators such as accident frequency, occupational illness rates, environmental breaches, IHM accuracy, and training coverage. The goal is a steady downward trend in harm and a steady upward movement in skills.

Yards that meet targets win contracts from owners based in regions with strict environmental policies, creating a solid business case for compliance.

THE NEED FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Global problems require coordinated solutions. Progress depends on cooperation among governments, NGOs, and industry stakeholders to pool training resources, and standardise inspections.

Mr. Zamil puts the point plainly:



“Safety grows when everyone in the yard feels ownership of the rules.”

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PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR JULY

- Review the IHM verification process and confirm the checklists.
- Schedule refresher training for all workers within four weeks.
- Audit stocks of necessary PPEs, harnesses, gloves, and respirators; replace worn items.
- Conduct a timed drill of spill prevention.
- Install a suggestion box and promise written feedback within a week.

Each action addresses a known operational gap and strengthens alignment with HKC requirements.



A CLOSING REFLECTION

Dr. Anand often finishes training days with this reminder:



“Protocols should not sit in a folder; they must live in every action, every shift.”

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The date 26 June 2025 is now etched in maritime law, yet the real milestone will be reached only when every ladder is secured, every respirator fits, and every worker returns home safe. By weaving HKC requirements into daily habits, ship recycling yards can protect people, preserve coastlines, and secure their place in a responsible global supply chain.

HONG KONG CONVENTION (HKC)



ROUND-UP OF MONTHLY TRAINING ACTIVITIES – AWARENESS OF THE HONG KONG CONVENTION (HKC)

Country	Training No.	Yard	Course Date	No. of Trainees
 Bangladesh	698	MAK Corporation	17/06/2025	12
	699	Janata Steels Ltd.	19/06/2025	05
	706	Arefin Enterprise	24/06/2025	14
	707	Jamuna Ship Breakers	24/06/2025	15
	708	S. H. Enterprise	26/06/2025	07
	709	HM Ship Breaking Industries	29/06/2025	14
 India	695	Shree Ram Vessel Scrap Pvt. Ltd.	09/06/2025	17
	696	Sai Metal Tech LLP	10/06/2025	14
	697	Green Tara Recycler LLP	10/06/2025	18
	700	Khushboo India Pvt. Ltd.	19/06/2025	13
	701	Kamdar & Associates	20/06/2025	16
	702	R K Industries Unit II LLP	23/06/2025	21
 Pakistan	703	Jamaluddin & Co	23/06/2025	14
	704	Prime Ship Breakers	23/06/2025	12
	705	S. A. Traders	23/06/2025	07







“SSORP is the only ship recycling program to be Verified and Vetted by Lloyd’s Register Quality Assurance.”

A crucial aspect of the SSORP is to increase occupational health and safety standards in ship recycling yards. Workers receive hazard-specific training to raise awareness and help to manage workplace risks. Training conducted through the SSORP is delivered free of charge to the yards and the training content is regularly reviewed to ensure it reflects best practices.

If you would like to find out more about the SSORP, or are interested in working with us to recycle your vessel/offshore asset in a responsible and HKC compliant manner, please contact us:

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