

WE SERVE THE BOATING BUSINESS

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT MARINE SURVEYORS

***The client/customer chooses the surveyor.**

Boat buyers continue to be misled about surveyors to hire to survey the vessels they are interested in buying or need to insure or finance. There has been much discourse on organizations, i.e., who and what are the best, what are the only “accepted” organizations, and what is accepted. This discourse is misleading and often borders on federally protected restriction of trade and right to work laws. No single organization is in charge and can mandate restrictions on surveyors

Business organizations, banks and insurance companies that block surveyors from engaging in their chosen professions because they do or do not belong to certain organizations may be liable for restriction of trade and violation of right to work laws. These organizations who may have been have been paid to advertise their preferences for certain organizations, entangle themselves in stalling, delay, and impeding the ultimate goal to serve their clients with quotes, answers and recommendations. This paradigm is ego driven competition which restricts fair trade, and encourages conflict of interest.

Marine Surveyors are generally self-employed. Some may work together in syndicates or groups. However, the survey report remains the responsibility of the marine surveyor. It is professionally dangerous for business entities to blanket accept organizational membership as a mark of superiority because they have paid or exchanged consideration to do so. It is also legally dangerous and a conflict of interest.

Marine surveyors use many credentials, letters, and terms such as Accredited, Certified, and Qualified. It’s the surveyor’s choice to use these monikers. While some insurance companies or underwriters recommend certain organizations, especially those who pay to be on such lists, discounting others, can be misconstrued and an interference in right to work.