

## **WHO “OWNS” A SHIP ?**

**This may seem like a simple question, but the ownership, management and operation of large commercial ships is complex.**

## **OWNER V. MANAGER V. CHARTERER**

**Ship operations can be divided into different roles and responsibilities.**

### **Owner:**

**The actual owner of the ship. There is always a “registered owner”. The registered owner, in turn, may be controlled by a “beneficial owner”. For example, many flag states require ownership by a locally registered business, but this business may just be a “shell company”, with profits flowing to the beneficial owner in another country.**

## **OWNER V. MANAGER V. CHARTERER**

### **Manager:**

**Day-to-day operations of the ship are often contracted out to ship management companies.**

### **Charterer:**

**The charterer is the company that “hires” the ship. Most ships are hired to transport goods, whether containers, bulk cargo, chemicals, or petroleum.**

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## WHO IS IMPLICATED IN MARITIME RESCUE?

Shipowners and managers are generally required to ensure that their ships, masters and crews abide by law and regulations, including the duty to rescue.

Charterers do not have these management responsibilities but may be affected if a ship deviates from its course to rescue.

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**Everyone at sea can play a role in  
maritime rescue**

**Find more information and resources at**

**[www.fhas.ch](http://www.fhas.ch)**