

IMO Energy Design Index Criticized

One of the proposals being developed by IMO to measure a vessel's energy efficiency could be dangerously flawed. The energy efficiency design index (EEDI) has been criticized by Stefan Kruger, head of ship design and safety at Hamburg Technical University. He believes its implementation will lead to a shift of cargo onto roads, as owners shun building new vessels in the future due to legislated limits that cannot be met. It could also mean ships, especially ro-ro vessels, could be built underpowered and incapable of extreme weather conditions.

Professor Kruger sees the design index as a limiting factor on the design speed of a new ship. "Owners will not build new vessels that do not meet market demand, but will use existing vessels. Then, as these vessels are scrapped, there will be a shift from the sea to land transport," he warned an audience of shipowners and designers in Hamburg. Vessels could also be built without due regard to their emergency needs, having the lowest powered engine to have an EEDI above the benchmark, but potentially not enough for extreme weather conditions.

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