

Report Writing For Marine Surveyors

It's likely that when the first dugout canoe was sold, someone was there to advise the buyer. That first marine surveyor probably didn't write a report, but the profession has come a long way; boats are complex, there are legal minefields to negotiate and there are professional standards to live up to in order to be a successful marine surveyor. In his book, *Report Writing For Marine Surveyors*, Mike Wall doesn't tell you how to survey a boat or how to find its value, but he will show you how to write a concise, professional pre-purchase, C&V, damage, cargo and collision survey report.

Mike Wall, (SAMS AMS) has been a surveyor for 25 years, focusing his career on large cargo ships, but not exclusively; he also knows the ins and outs of recreational vessel surveys. Starting with one of the most important aspects of report writing, the legal one, Wall explains how to write a report that will keep you out of court, or, failing that, how to mount a good defense. There is a section devoted to limits of liability, what to write up in a survey and what not to write up (and why). Wall covers the scope of different types of surveys and the limits of disclaimers, which he says won't overcome a poor work product but might protect the surveyor from a frivolous lawsuit. Copyright laws are discussed, which as Wall explains can keep a report out of the hands of unauthorized users who could

use it for other purposes. While he writes from a British viewpoint (and in proper British English), Wall is well versed in US laws, having been involved with many maritime legal issues on this side of the Atlantic.

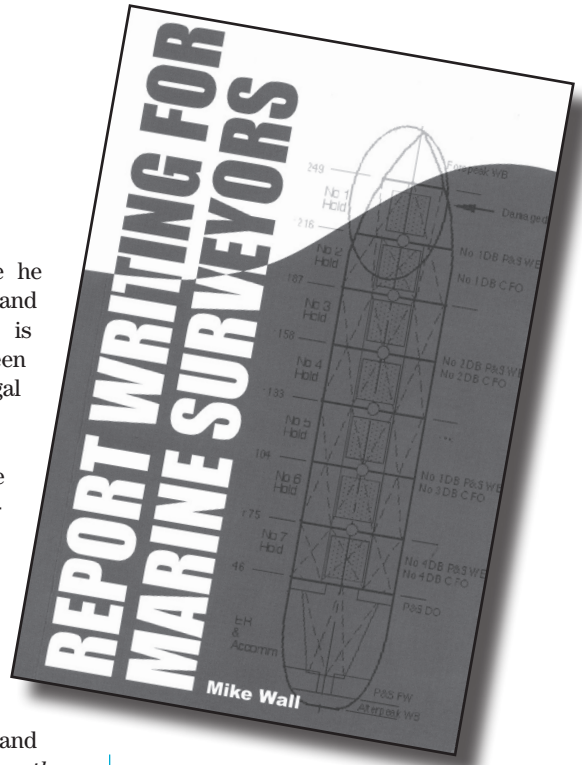
Effective report writing is one thing that separates great surveyors from those who are merely OK and Wall covers the subject well. He discusses the tone of a report, the narrative, and the structure (*we came, we saw, we found, we reported, we concluded, we recommend*). Wall gives guidance on grammar and offers some simple rules (*no more than 14 words per sentence, four sentences per paragraph*) that can make the difference between hard-to-read reports and ones that are concise, informative and professional. Other sections cover topics like numbering (*always spell out fractions, such as one-half*), terminology, and even typefaces. Picture and diagram placement are covered as well.


Most of the last half of the book concerns commercial surveys but there are also some detailed examples of Condition and Valuation reports for recreational vessels. A few of Wall's commercial diagrams may also be useful in investigating recreational

boat collisions.

Report Writing For Marine Surveyors should be of particular value to new surveyors for whom writing detailed, accurate and concise survey reports is essential to building their business. Even surveyors who are comfortable with their reports, however, will likely take away something useful from this book.

One major drawback is the price: US \$125. It can be ordered directly from the publisher at www.Petrosport.com. 320 pages, soft cover.





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	YEAR(S):		
HAZARD: (sinking, fire, injury, etc.)			HIN:
DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM:			
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