



European Tugowners Association

Guidelines for accepting Associate Members in the European Tugowners Association (ETA)

Introduction

The ETA offers an Associate Membership category to strengthen industry collaboration and expand its influence. This membership is designed for organisations and individuals who contribute valuable expertise, products, or services to the towage industry while not operating as towage service providers.

Furthermore, ETA's budget depends on such membership since it is a substantial contributor to both the annual budget and the Annual Meeting of ETA.

Benefits of Associate Membership to Companies

Associate Members of the ETA enjoy advantages that provide them with enhanced visibility, participation opportunities, and access to exclusive industry insights. The main benefits include:

- **Networking Opportunities:** Associate Members gain direct access to a network of key decision-makers and stakeholders within the towage and broader maritime industry. This includes exclusive invitations to member-only meetings, conferences, and social events that foster collaboration and partnerships.
- **Industry Information Access:** Receive timely and relevant industry information through newsletters, research reports, and regulatory updates. This access ensures that Associate Members remain informed of the latest industry developments, trends, and legislative changes impacting the towage sector.
- **Event Participation:** Gain the opportunity to participate in and sponsor ETA conferences, workshops, and webinars. These events cover critical topics such as safety protocols, environmental initiatives, and technological advancements, offering a platform for knowledge sharing and professional growth.
- **Brand Visibility:** Inclusion in the ETA's official membership directory and website, allowing members to showcase their brand to other members and external stakeholders. This recognition enhances their reputation and credibility within the maritime community.
- **Consultative Role:** Associate Members have opportunities to participate in consultative discussions, contribute their expertise to working groups, and provide input on industry-related policies. Although non-voting, their involvement supports the development and implementation of best practices and standards in the industry.

Eligibility Criteria

The ETA seeks to admit Associate Members who share its values and contribute positively to the towage industry. The following criteria outline who is eligible for Associate Membership:



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- **Industry Alignment:** Entities and individuals must demonstrate a vested interest in the towage industry. This includes suppliers of goods and services (e.g., maritime equipment manufacturers, fuel suppliers, software providers), maritime consultants, research institutions, and academic experts in marine and transport studies.
- **Reputable Standing:** Applicants should have an established reputation within their field, characterised by ethical business practices, adherence to industry standards, and a history of positive engagement with clients or stakeholders in the maritime sector.
- **Complementarity with Full Members:** Associate Membership is open to organisations whose roles and services complement those of Full Members in harbour towage. This approach reinforces cooperation within the association and supports a balanced membership structure.
- **Commitment to the ETA Mission:** Applicants must demonstrate alignment with the ETA's mission and values, showing a clear commitment to promoting safety, environmental sustainability, and excellence in the towage sector. This may be demonstrated through prior collaborative efforts, contributions to the industry, or ongoing research and innovation initiatives.
- **Financial Stability and Reliability:** Prospective Associate Members should exhibit financial stability, indicating their capability to maintain membership obligations, participate in association activities, and contribute to collaborative projects.

Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants for Associate Membership include:

- **Suppliers and Service Providers:** Companies that offer products and services crucial to towage operations, such as engine manufacturers, vessel maintenance companies, or maritime software developers.
- **Consultancy Firms:** Firms specialising in areas such as maritime logistics, safety management, risk assessment, and environmental compliance.
- **Educational and Research Institutions:** Universities, maritime colleges, and research organisations that conduct studies or provide training related to maritime safety, operations, or engineering.
- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** NGOs working on maritime sustainability and safety projects that align with the ETA's mission.
- **Industry Associations:** Other associations or professional bodies in related fields that seek to collaborate with the ETA on industry advancements.

Application Process

The ETA has a clear process for applying for Associate Membership:

- **Application Form Submission:** Prospective members must complete the Associate Membership Application Form. This form should include detailed information about the organisation or individual, including their role in the industry and how they align with the ETA's mission.



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- **Supporting Documentation:** Applicants should submit relevant documents such as a company profile, brochures, case studies, or references from current industry partners that illustrate their contributions to the maritime or towage sector.
- **Membership Review:** The ETA Executive Committee will review applications to ensure that eligibility criteria are met. The review process may include follow-up questions or interviews to clarify the applicant's role and alignment with the ETA's objectives.
- **Approval Process:** Upon approval, successful applicants will receive formal notification of their acceptance, along with details on membership fees and initial participation steps.
- **Membership Fee Payment:** Approved members must pay the annual membership fee as determined by the ETA's Membership Committee.

Membership Obligations

Associate Members are expected to fulfil the following obligations:

- **Active Participation:** Members are encouraged to attend events, workshops, and meetings organised by the ETA to contribute to discussions and collaborative projects.
- **Code of Conduct Compliance:** All members must adhere to the ETA's Code of Conduct, emphasising professionalism, integrity, and mutual respect.
- **Confidentiality and Data Protection:** Members must maintain the confidentiality of information shared within the association and uphold data protection standards to safeguard sensitive industry data.
- **Support for ETA Initiatives:** Members should support and promote ETA initiatives aimed at enhancing safety, sustainability, and innovation within the towage sector.

Termination of Membership

Associate Membership may be terminated under certain conditions:

- **Voluntary Resignation:** Members who wish to withdraw their membership should provide written notice to the ETA Secretariat at least three months in advance.
- **Non-Compliance:** Failure to comply with membership obligations, including violation of the Code of Conduct or actions detrimental to the reputation of the ETA, may result in membership review and potential termination.
- **Non-Payment of Fees:** If membership fees are not paid by the designated deadline, the ETA reserves the right to revoke membership until payments are settled.