

Insurance
Intelligence
White Paper
Series
PART ONE

IDWAL



INSURANCE INTELLIGENCE

PART ONE

Leveraging Idwal Data to Strengthen
Maritime H&M Insurance Decisions

idwalmarine.com

Introduction

Insuring maritime assets has always been complex but in today's digital landscape, the challenge isn't a lack of data, but knowing which data to trust. Traditional sources like Port State Control (PSC) records can be inconsistent, incomplete, or outdated. What underwriters need is a clearer, condition-led view of risk. One that goes beyond age, class or other KPIs to reflect the real condition of vessels.

This whitepaper introduces how Idwal's proprietary, inspection-led data, centred around the Idwal Grade®, enables insurers to make better-informed underwriting and pricing decisions, reduce risk exposure, and enhance portfolio analysis.

Who are Idwal?

Idwal is the global leader in independent vessel inspections, data and intelligence. Since 2010, we've delivered unique survey and vessel assessment solutions to cross-sector markets.

In the last five years, we've completed over 15,000 physical ship inspections, helping to power strategic decisions for shipowners, financiers, asset managers, operators, and insurers worldwide.

With the intelligence from our inspections, augmented by machine-learning models, we have developed a unique and proprietary dataset to create the industry's first dynamic condition rating model, now covering more than 60,000 deep-sea assets, and available to hull underwriters worldwide.



From Assumption to Evidence: Why Insurers Need Better Data

Most insurers still depend on fragmented datasets or static proxies to model risk. These models often rely on outdated assumptions, creating gaps in visibility that can lead to mispriced premiums or unexpected losses.

The limitations of traditional sources:

- PSC data can be inconsistent and often lags behind real vessel condition
- Class records do not capture onboard operational standards
- Self-reported information can lack neutrality
- Risk models based on static data miss dynamic risk changes

What's missing is an empirical, consistent and continuously updated source of vessel condition data. That's where Idwal comes in.

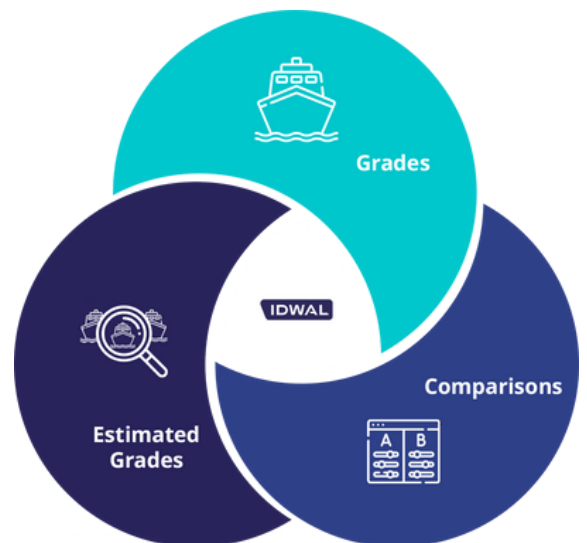
What Is the Idwal Grade®?

The Idwal Grade® is the leading global benchmark for ship condition and risk, built from a proprietary dataset, derived from large-scale, cross-sector inspections and enhanced with machine learning.

Key features:

- Derived from over 15,000 physical inspections
- Covers technical condition, safety, maintenance, and ESG
- Augmented by machine learning and programmatic scoring
- Backed by over 500 data points per vessel
- Continuously updated to reflect changing asset condition

Why it matters: The Idwal Grade gives insurers an evidence-based score they can trust - far more powerful than age or flag alone.



Inside the Data Engine: How Idwal Delivers Consistency and Scale

Behind every Idwal Grade lies a robust inspection and data validation process, purpose-built to deliver reliable and repeatable insights for insurers.

Built for scale, engineered for trust:

- Global surveyor network: 500+ expert inspectors in 100+ countries
- Structured inspections: 500-point process removes subjectivity
- Programmatic scoring: All grades are system-generated
- UK-based QA: Every inspection undergoes human quality assurance
- 60,000+ vessels: Tracked in the Idwal data ecosystem

This operational model gives insurers confidence that each Grade is not only accurate, but comparable across fleets, geographies, and time.

Use Cases: How Insurers Are Using Idwal Data

Whether quoting a new risk, pricing a renewal, or benchmarking an entire book of business - Idwal's data supports smarter decisions.



Reduce risk exposure

Identify higher-risk vessels when writing new risks or evaluating portfolio performance.



Underwrite with confidence

Identify higher-risk vessels when writing new risks or evaluating portfolio performance.



Refine pricing models

Enhance pricing decisions with empirical, inspection-driven data from trusted experts in our field.



Screen new clients proactively

Understand a client's vessel condition profile before quoting or onboarding. Complemented with PSC data and event-driven insights.



Have confidence in consistency

Reliance on data that is structured, robust and built for use at both aggregate and individual asset level.



Benchmark clients and fleets

Use Idwal Grades to evaluate how vessels compare to industry peers.

Idwal Data: In Practice

Today, more than ever, H&M insurance departments are under pressure to make faster, more accurate decisions in a dynamic risk environment. Yet many underwriting and claims teams still rely on inconsistent, static, or incomplete data sources—such as Port State Control (PSC) histories, self-reported information, or vessel age. They were left asking the question? What is the quantifiable state of the vessel?

The current approach leaves critical blind spots across key decision points, including assessing risk during new business quotation, setting accurate technical pricing levels, validating vessel condition at the point of claim, and reporting on fleet performance to internal and external stakeholders.

Our client needed a trusted, structured data source that could support consistent decision-making across its global portfolio.

A New Approach: Condition-Led Data

By integrating Idwal's inspection-driven data into their workflows, the insurer created a single, standardised framework to assess vessel-level risk with greater accuracy and objectivity.



Incorporate Idwal Grades

Our client incorporated the Idwal Grade into their internal pricing and risk models via monthly export - with each month becoming more accurate than the prior as even more vessels are inspected.



Commissioned Inspections

Our client selectively chose to validate or challenge assumptions during key underwriting or claims moments for extra clarity. The information provided by Idwal allowed them more granularity than ever before.



Benchmark and comparison data

Benchmarking the fleet using condition trends and subgrade patterns spotted high or low-performing clients allowing the insurer to take proactive, commercially intelligent actions.

A Better Outcome with Idwal

With Idwal data integrated into their operations, the insurer achieved a step change in consistency and clarity across the insurance lifecycle. Underwriters gained immediate access to objective, inspection-led insights at the point of quotation, enabling faster, evidence-based decisions. Claims teams benefited from greater transparency when validating condition-related losses, supported by historical grading data. At the portfolio level, actuarial and risk teams used standardised metrics to benchmark performance and identify emerging trends. Idwal's data aligned internal teams around a shared, defensible view of vessel condition—reducing ambiguity and strengthening insurer-broker-client relationships.

Seamless Access for Insurance Teams

Idwal makes it easy for underwriters, analysts and actuaries to access and apply data with flexible delivery options:

Integrate (API)

Include up-to-date Idwal Grades for all mainstream asset types into your existing models.



Import (CSV)

Receive customisable data exports delivered monthly, quarterly, or annually.



Visualise (Screening Tool)

Use the Idwal ID screening platform to instantly access any vessel in the world fleet.



Conclusion

With the Idwal Grade, insurers gain a real-time, inspection-backed advantage; replacing assumptions with insight and enabling data-driven underwriting decisions delivered through flexible data delivery.

In a market where speed, precision, and confidence are non-negotiable, Idwal helps you make smarter decisions with structured, standardised and trustworthy data.

Inspection Insight. Data Advantage.



Want to see it our data in action?

If you want to hear more or book a live demonstration, just click the button below to get in touch with the team.

[Book a demonstration](#)

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Contact us for further enquiries

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