

## **EI HM 49/API MPMS Ch 17.9 Edition 2, May 2012:**

### **Vessel Experience Factor**

#### **Request for interpretation (clarification)**

In October 2014 the API received a request for interpretation relating to sections 8 and 9 of the above document. This was presented as follows:

**'There is confusion within the industry as to which voyages should be included in the required 20 voyages to be used to calculate a VEF.**

**Should the user start with the last 20 voyages, as maximum, regardless of what type of voyages they are, as would be suggested in the first paragraph of Section 8.1?'**

In order to respond to this question a small EI/API task group was formed. The group discussed the issue and produced the following reply which was endorsed through wider review across respective committees in both organisations:

**Yes, as stated in Section 8.1, only the most recent 20 voyages should be used to begin the VEF calculation procedure and if these do not result in the required 5 qualifying voyages then a VEF cannot be calculated in accordance with the standard. In such cases Section 10.2.3 states that "the commercial parties shall agree the ratio to be used". One method which might be used to obtain a ratio is to consider voyages beyond 20, one by one, until at least 5 qualifying voyages are obtained.**

Followers of the guidance should note that the course of action to be taken when a VEF cannot be calculated according to the standard must always be for the agreement of the commercial parties. The above method is often found to be acceptable to both parties and the EI hopes that users may benefit from this proposed solution.

**VAT Registration Number: 815 2056 56**

Incorporated by Royal Charter 2003.  
Registered Charity Number 1097899.

Licensed by the Engineering Council to  
register engineers and technicians.

Licensed by the Science Council to register  
chartered scientists.

Licensed by the Society for the Environment  
to register chartered environmentalists.

