

All ahead safe

Fifteen years ago, the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground in Prince William Sound in Alaska.

This unfortunate and regrettable accident disrupted many lives, yet it served to focus our energies to significantly improve the safety of our oil shipping.

In the years since the accident, we have had nothing similar occur, despite the risks inherent in marine transportation. We believe our subsequent record of safety stems primarily from disciplined and systematic improvements in the way we address marine safety (and all other aspects of our operations).

The accompanying chart shows the progress since our merger. Last year the tankers we own or use under long-term lease experienced four small spills, with a loss of less than one teaspoon of oil for every million gallons transported.

Our marine-safety and environmental performance has received worldwide recognition, including winning our third consecutive Sword of Honour award from the British Safety Council and the most recent U.S. Coast Guard William M. Benkert Gold award, "the premier national award that recognizes marine environmental excellence."

But more important than the awards are the results, and the way they have been achieved is instructive.

While the introduction of widely publicized enhancements, such as ships with double hulls, can reduce the risk of spills, even more impor-

tant is the approach used to prevent accidents and spills in the first place. Our approach has been to establish a comprehensive Operations Integrity Management System that, among other features, aims for zero marine-safety incidents.

We systematically assess the risks associated with each step in oil transportation and then initiate corrective or mitigating steps. The improvements we undertake include investments

and procedures to reduce risks from both shore loading and shipboard operations.

For example, we emphasize thorough training of our employees, training that often exceeds regulatory requirements and focuses on corrective action long before an accident can occur.

A second major initiative has been directed toward careful vetting of the vessels that we charter to carry oil and the terminals

where the oil is loaded.

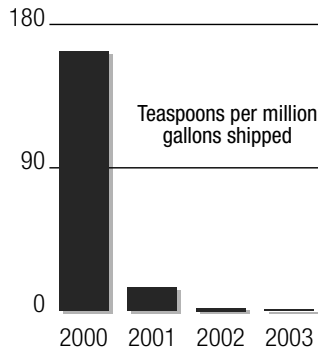
This vetting process involves rigorous screening that will cover the management systems used by the charter company, the condition of the ship being offered, the cargo handling compatibility of the equipment, and the safety of the vessel routes being proposed for the shipment.

We also belong to many rapid-response organizations and engage in emergency-response drills to maintain a robust capability to limit the impact of any incident.

But the fundamental goal is zero accidents and zero spills. We are not quite there yet, and we will not be satisfied until we are.

ExxonMobil marine spill performance

(Owned & long-term leased tankers)



ExxonMobil

Taking on the world's toughest energy challenges.™