

# eApproval

first web-based approval service



“*Design- and engineering-cycle times have been significantly reduced owing to the shorter delivery times caused by heavy market competition. The same-time project size has grown and the technical demands are more challenging. As an assembly yard with a high outsourcing level, Aker Finnyards has established an extensive real-time project-collaboration network of design partners and turnkey suppliers. Adding the classification society to this network is a necessity in order to achieve shorter approval-cycle times and improve the exchange of information. Closer cooperation will also standardise common processes for our mutual benefit.*

*Erkki Strengell, Senior Vice President Design, Aker Finnyards*

A first from DNV: eApproval  
Stacks of drawings and documentation. This is a familiar sight to ship yards, owners and operators during the planning, design and construction of vessels. Paper copies, folded many times to fit into binders and storage boxes, must be found, placed on the table for discussion and then quite often sent back and forth by mail or courier. Needless to mention, this takes time. In shipping, as of course in most businesses, time is money. To DNV, the application of smart, cutting-edge IT solutions is essential for the efficient delivery of our service – which is why DNV, as the first classification society in the world, is introducing eApproval. This is the approval service for the future.

How it works

Through a secure service on DNV’s web tool, DNV Exchange, manufacturers, ship yards and designers can submit and receive documentation over the Internet. Using eApproval, drawings, calculations and accompanying letters are uploaded to the DNV Exchange server. In this working process, DNV will approve the documentation electronically, redline and stamp the drawings and upload the approved documentation back to DNV Exchange together with the approval letter.

An example

Flensburger Schiffbau-Gesellschaft mbH & Co. KG was the first client to try the eApproval service on its new roll-on/roll-off carriers built for U.N. Ro-Ro Isletmeleri AS. Markus Brinkmann, a naval architect and the eApproval coordinator at Flensburger Schiffbau-Gesellschaft, made the following comments on eApproval in an evaluation of the service:

*How has your company’s internal work procedures been affected by eApproval?*

“It was much easier to handle documents and retain an overview of documents (with eApproval).”

*As you see it, does eApproval improve the quality of DNV’s services?*

“Very much. When eApproval was first introduced, I said that this was the missing link in customer-oriented plan approval.

“Now we are able to see if the drawings have reached DNV. When sending drawings via email or paper mail, you don’t know when or if they have arrived.

“Thank you very much for introducing this new system and giving us the opportunity to be the first company to use it. We hope you will continue working on this new tool in order to remain one step ahead of the other classification societies.”

Security

There is a high focus on security. A range of precautions have been taken in this respect. Access by username and password, a server located in a secured area, encrypted file transfer and virus protection are some of the items that increase security to an acceptable level when handling confidential information.

Benefits

The potential main benefits of eApproval are:

- The faster exchange of information means shorter design time
- Easy access to and overview of documentation
- Paper, mailing-time and associated costs are reduced to practically zero
- Efficient communication between DNV and the customer

These benefits may contribute to reduced construction and delivery time.

The users will have continuous access to the status of documents and be able to download the approved documentation. This will facilitate communication between the different parties involved in the design process and improve the planning process.

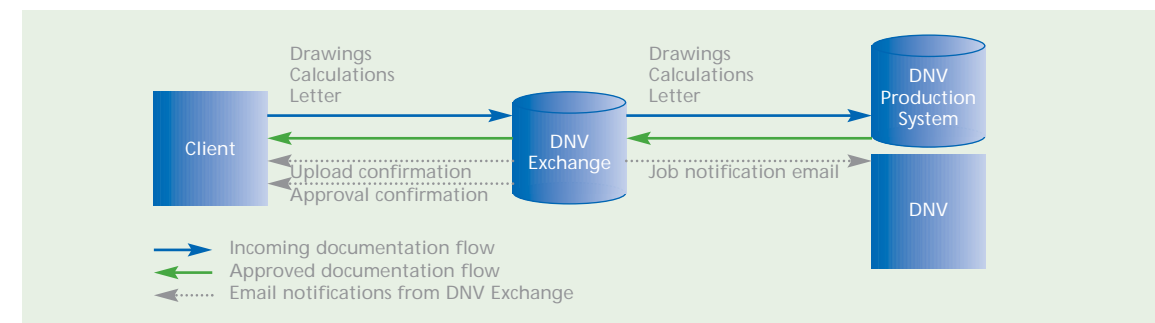
New possibilities

Digital drawings enable the use of new tools and work procedures. The time-consuming internal distribution of paper copies may not be necessary anymore. Many people can look at the same approved drawing simultaneously on their PC screens. The digital drawings may be viewed and discussed during a meeting on a so-called smart board, an interactive whiteboard which can be used with or without a projector. Digital drawings make it easier to arrange video-conferences when drawings are to be discussed.



“As you see it, does eApproval improve the quality of DNV’s services? Yes: this new service offered by DNV allows us to send drawings for approval from anywhere, cutting time and paper work; also, it’s easier to keep track of the approval procedure and possible to check it from anywhere as well.

*Estaleiros Navais de Viana do Castelo (ENVC)*



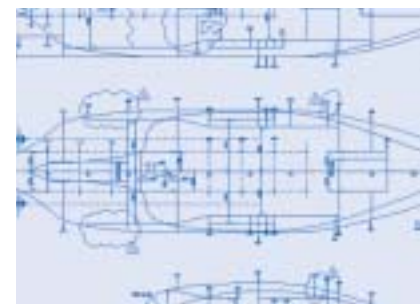
The eApproval process

The figure shows the document flow in the eApproval process.

1. The client logs onto DNV Exchange, enters eApproval, chooses a vessel and uploads a package.
2. The client receives an email confirming the uploading on DNV Exchange. At the same time, DNV receives a job notification email.
3. DNV imports the uploaded package from DNV Exchange into the DNV Production System.

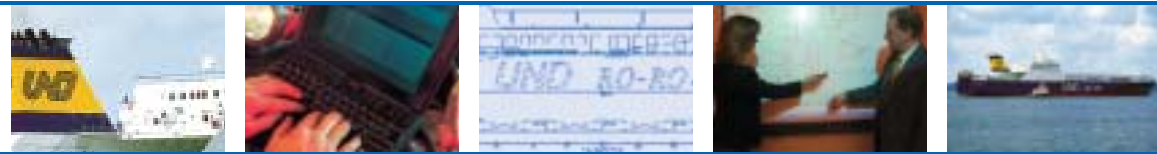
4. DNV carries out the approval, redlines and stamps the drawings electronically in a mark-up file, generates the picture file of the approved drawing, and writes the approval letter.
5. DNV uploads the approved package to DNV Exchange.
6. The client receives an email stating that the documentation is now available in his user account in DNV Exchange.

The client users may download the approved documentation from DNV Exchange.



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For more information regarding the eApproval service,  
please contact your local DNV office