

Ship Inspection Management System (SIMS)

What's New in Version 8? 31st July 2009

The Ship Inspection Management System consists of a web-based database of ship inspections carried out by Inspectors of Port Health Authorities using a mobile PDA device to input data. Inspections are entered onto the PDA onboard ship or back at the office and authentic certificates such as the Ship Inspection Report and Ship Sanitation Certificate, along with supporting documents (which enhance the information on the SSCEC) are printed either from a mobile bluetooth printer onboard ship or from the SIMS website at your office PC.

These documents are intended to advise you of changes in the software, version by version. If you need any assistance or have any questions please contact SIMS support on **0845 009 3103** or email support@apha-sims.com.

This version has introduced some new features and fixed some existing ones. The next version, version 9, will be released at the APHA Annual Conference in September 2009 and will be the official release of SIMS. We wish to thank all PHA authorities testers for their hard work while the system has been a pilot.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS

1. With this version, data held on the main central SIMS database will be synchronized with the data on your PDA for the following databases:

Ships
Ports
Registered Ports
Flag States
Agents
Owners

This basically means any data input by any SIMS user will end up on your own PDA. The data will be automatically synchronized with no need for user input. The data will be synchronized the first time you connect (and subsequent connections) after you re-start the system after the upgrade is complete.

We also have the facility now to import data into the main system from your own PHA databases in various formats such as Access, XML, CSV, Excel and many others. Please contact support if you have data you wish to import into SIMS. If you have already submitted data, this is available with version 8

2. With version 7, in some cases the comments on the printout were being duplicated or taken from a previous inspection. This has now been fixed.

3. You can now specify when you go into the search screen whether the 'partial search' box is ticked by default or not. To do this go to MAIN MENU—OPTIONS—OTHER SETTINGS—DEFAULTS-PARTIAL SEARCH BY DEFAULT

4. In the documentation section of SIMS there are now 2 new categories, WHATS NEW? and OTHER DOCUMENTS. 'What's new?' are the documents you are looking at right now, available on your PDA and other documents such as APHA technical manuals can also be automatically downloaded. If any user would like a document included, please contact support.

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CHANGES/ADDITIONS Continued ...

5. In previous versions, whether you were doing a Ship Inspection Report or a SSC, both documents would print/be produced on the web. Now you can choose either or both with a tick box on the first page of the Inspection screen. Using these, you can control what documents are actually produced. See the MAIN tab of the Inspection, 'Are you issuing SSC/SSCEC?' and 'Are you issuing Ship Inspection Report?' Because of the 2 sets of documents, Ship Inspection Reports now have their own numbering system such as '09-GBHUL-A-RO-1' where 'RO' means report only.

6. Users can no longer delete any Inspections AFTER they have been submitted to the central SIMS database. You can delete if a mistake has been made and you HAVE NOT submitted. Also you can not delete SHIPS/PORTS/PORTS REGISTERED/AGENTS/OWNERS AND FLAGSTATES. If you have entered any of these in error, please contact support for assistance who can remove the data centrally for you. This has been introduced for security and data integrity reasons.

7. All drop down option menus are now in alphabetical order

8. The foods samples section has now become FOOD/WATER samples. You now enter water samples in the same way. With the upcoming version 9, there will be a facility to attach result documents such as lab results to the Inspection on the website for all to see.

There are a number of new features coming up on version 9, which will be the official launch of SIMS at the APHA Annual Conference (8th to 10th September 2009). SIMS will be presented at the conference with facilities for attendees to try out and learn more about SIMS. More details later.

We will be shortly updating the WHATS COMING section on the web site to list the features coming up in version 9. One of the main features of version 9 is Management Reports.

www.apha-sims.com

To install these changes, simply select **CONNECT TO SERVER** on your PDA and the system will upgrade itself automatically.

Would users who have requested a change to the system or reported an error please check it is working and let us know if there are any outstanding problems.

If you have any suggestions for the next version, please let us know by visiting the website www.apha-sims.com click on **SUPPORT** then **MAKE A SUGGESTION**

Thank you for using SIMS. We continue to work to enhance the system and listen to the needs of users.

Thank you,

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