The article provides a description of the Autonomous ship, studies existing relevant projects, and examines the related Operational, Regulatory, and Quality assurance challenges raised due to the development and actual deployment of such vessels in the near future. After reviewing the main operational procedures, existing regulations, and quality assurance standards, a number of possible solutions and approaches to overcome the identified challenges are indicated. Some of the conclusions may be used not only in the Autonomous ships but also in traditionally manned vessels.
Bibliografia

5 COLREG (1972), Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, IMO.
For autonomous ships, the open ocean may prove to be more fertile ground for the adoption of full automation than crowded city streets. To understand where autonomous cargo shipping currently stands, where it is likely to go in the coming years, and what impact it will have, it is important to consider three major questions: What value can unmanned shipping provide to make it worth the heavy investment to change the industry? How does the industry plan to deploy these new autonomous shipping vessels? Last year Mikael Mäkinen, president of Rolls-Royce Marine, declared that, “Autonomous shipping is the future of the maritime industry. As disruptive as the smart phone, the smart ship will revolutionize the landscape of ship design and operations.”