

## Commonwealth of Dominica



## Office of the Maritime Administrator

- TO:** ALL SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS OF MERCHANT VESSELS,  
AND DOMINICA FLAG STATE INSPECTORS
- SUBJECT:** DETENTION PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR DOMINICA FLAG  
VESSELS
- REFERENCE:** a) Dominica Marine Safety Regulations  
b) IMO Assembly Resolution A.948(23)  
c) Dominica Marine Safety Circular CD – MSC -12 -01 rev. Safety  
Inspections
- PURPOSE:** The purpose of this notice is to provide guidance to Dominica Shipowners/  
Operators and Flag State Inspectors on Commonwealth of Dominica  
requirements in order to prevent detentions of Dominica Flag vessels.
- APPLICABILITY:** This Circular applies to all Dominica flag vessels and vessels entering  
the registry.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of the **DETENTION PREVENTION PROGRAM** is to assist ship owner/operator to reduce the detention rate on the vessels flying Dominica Flag. The program will be coordinated by Flag State Inspector designated by Deputy Maritime Administrator.

The program consists of two main areas: proactive and the reactive measures.

**PROACTIVE MEASURES**

- a) Annual Safety Inspection,
- b) Detention Prevention Inspection,
- c) Pre-entry inspection.

**REACTIVE MEASURES**

- a) Post Detention Inspection,
- b) ISM additional Audit

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

- a) This program will come into force 15 January 2007.

**REQUIREMENTS:****Annual Safety Inspection**

1. All Dominica vessels are required to undergo an annual safety inspection with the following exceptions:
  - Unmanned barges;
  - Pleasure yachts not engaged in the carriage of passengers for hire;
  - Vessels fishing in waters within the jurisdiction of Dominica; and
  - Cargo vessels under 150 gross tons or less than 24 meters I length.
2. The inspection, referred to in paragraph 1 above, shall be carried out within 3 months before or after the anniversary date of the vessel.

**Port State Inspections reports**

3. All Dominica vessels which were subject to Port State Control inspections are required to submit to DMRI Office copies of PSC inspections reports carried out on these vessels.
4. The reports, referred to in paragraph 3 above, shall be submitted to the Office of Deputy Maritime Administrator, Commonwealth of Dominica, 32 Washington St., Fairhaven, Massachusetts, USA, directly or through one of the DMRI Regional Offices (as posted on DMRI website).

**Detention Prevention Inspections**

5. In addition to the above all Dominica Flag vessels which were imposed 10 or more deficiencies during PSC inspection, as a result of one inspection or 20 or more deficiencies as a result of several inspections within one year period ,even if there was no detention, are obliged to undergo a special detention prevention inspection.
6. The purpose of the inspection is to confirm and clear all the deficiencies already found by the PSCO, as well as uncover and rectify any other problems that might be revealed during further PSC inspections.
7. In addition to the paragraph 6 above the scope of the survey will be an expanded inspection in those areas which have been found with deficiencies.

8. The inspection, referred to in paragraph 5 above, needs to be carried out as soon as possible, but not later than 1 month from the PSC inspection.

### **Pre-entry Inspections**

9. All vessels wishing to enter Dominica Maritime Registry, fulfilling one or more items as below:
  - of 20 years of age or more;
  - with detention within the recent 12 months;
  - classed with a NON-IACS society;
  - which occurred a casualty or very serious casualty within the previous 12 months;
  - changing the Flag from a Black listed flag administration as defined by the PARIS MOU annual reports;
  - with 20 or more deficiencies reported by PSC within the previous 12 monthsneed to undergo pre –entry inspection.
10. The scope of the inspection referred to in paragraph 9 above, for the vessels of 20 years of age or more is described in details in Marine Safety Circular CD-MS-C 10-04 rev.

### **Post Detention Inspection**

11. Each vessel which was detained by PSCO is obliged to undergo a Post Detention Inspection as soon as possible, before departure from the port of detention.
12. The inspection referred to in paragraph 11 above is in order (to accompany the Class inspection) to confirm and clear all the deficiencies already found by the PSCO, as well as uncover and rectify any other problems that might be revealed during the follow-up PSC inspection.

### **ISM Additional Audit**

13. ISM additional Audits shall be carried out in the following situations:
  - Major non-conformities in Safety Management System were found during PSC inspection; or
  - the vessel have been detained twice within the last two years period irrespective if the detention have been recorded by different MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control).
14. ISM Additional Audit will be conducted by ISM qualified Flag State Auditors, selected by the Deputy Maritime Administrator.

### **Special Safety Inspections**

15. In addition to the above and in the interests of quality assurance, a Dominica vessel also may be required to undergo a special or unscheduled safety inspection at any time

**Procedures**

16. It is the responsibility of owners and Masters to present their vessels for timely inspection when a required inspection is due. In that regard, the Technical and Maritime Safety Division, DMRI, should be advised as to the vessel's next available port, ETA and Agent information.
17. Vessels not inspected by the due date will be considered as "overdue" and follow up procedures will be initiated.

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