

Commonwealth of Dominica**Office of the Maritime Administrator**

- TO:** ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS
- SUBJECT:** Safety Inspections of Dominica Flag Ships
- REFERENCE:** a) Dominica Marine Safety Regulations
b) IMO Assembly Resolution A.948(23)
- PURPOSE:** To appraise all parties of the policy, types and procedures for vessel safety inspections. The term 'safety inspections' is intended to include those provisions of international law and regulation that address both safety and prevention of pollution from ships.
- APPLICABILITY:** This Circular applies to all Dominica flag vessels and vessels entering the registry.
- ANNEXES:** (1) Guidance for Masters

REQUIREMENTS:**1.0 Initial Safety Inspections**

All Dominica vessels are required to undergo an initial safety inspection or survey upon registration, upon re-registration resulting in both change of ownership and management, prior to reactivation after a lay-up period in excess of six months or following any substantial structural alteration.

It is anticipated that surveys for Class and statutory surveys, conducted with each new registration or reactivation together with an audit of the shipowner's ISM records and procedures will be at least to the scope of annual surveys, as prescribed by IMO Assembly Resolution A.948(23) *Revised survey guidelines under the harmonized system of survey and certification*, and adequate for the purpose of ensuring that each vessel meets the statutory requirements for Registration under the Flag of Dominica.

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular should be directed to the Deputy Maritime Administrator
Commonwealth of Dominica, 32 Washington Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 USA
registration@dominica-registry.com

2.0 Annual Safety Inspections

All Dominica vessels are required to undergo an annual safety inspection with the following exceptions:

- .1 Unmanned barges;
- .2 Pleasure yachts not engaged in the carriage of passengers for hire;
- .3 Vessels fishing in waters within the jurisdiction of Dominica; and
- .4 Cargo vessels under 500 gross tons.

3.0 Periodic Safety Inspections

Special purpose or uniquely constructed vessels may be required to undergo periodic inspection at assigned intervals of less than one year.

4.0 Special Safety Inspections

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.

5.0 Nautical Inspectors

Inspections will be carried out under the direction of the Technical Operations Division, Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator, by duly appointed Nautical Inspectors.

In an effort to avoid duplication of effort, surveys conducted by a Recognized Organization generally will be accepted as meeting the requirements above.

6.0 Procedures

6.1 It is the responsibility of owners and Masters to present their vessels for timely inspection when a required inspection or survey is due. In that regard, the Technical Operations Division, DMRI, should be advised as to the vessel's next available port, ETA and Agent information.

6.1.1 Owners or operators of vessels and offshore platforms or vessel engaged in the offshore seabed resource exploration, development and production industries operating in remote or hard to reach areas, and vessels not expressly covered by the Safety of Life at Sea Convention, 1974 may have their vessels inspected in accordance with an Alternate Inspection Program. Such inspections will be scheduled directly by the DMRI staff.

- 6.1.2 To more closely follow the requirements of SOLAS and MARPOL, the regulation requiring weekly fire and boat drills will be amended to require weekly fire and boat drills for passenger vessels and the crew to attend fire and boat drills on cargo vessels once a month with weekly safety training sessions which should include training in one or more of the following subjects over a six month period:

Safety Management System	Portable Fire Extinguishers	Fire main/fire fighting	Fixed Fire Extinguishing Systems
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	Thermal Protective Aids, Ring Buoys, Life Jackets, and Exposure Suits	Launching Lifeboats and Liferafts	Lifeboat/Liferaft Emergency Equipment
EPIRBs & other Emergency Communication Equipment	Flares and other Emergency Signals	First Aid (including CPR)	Line Throwing Apparatus
Entering Enclosed Spaces	Pollution Response	Man Overboard Response	Response to spills of Hazardous Materials on board
Response to Grounding or Collision	Loss of Steering	Loss of Propulsion	How to fight fires on board this vessel.
Search and Rescue assistance	Ballast Water Exchange	Waste/Garbage Management	Oily Bilge Water Management

- 6.2 Vessels not inspected by the due date will be considered as "overdue" and follow up procedures will be initiated.

7.0 Annex

Annex I hereto is provided as information for owners and Masters, to facilitate the conduct of safety inspections.

ANNEX I**SAFETY INSPECTION OF SHIPS:
GUIDANCE FOR MASTERS**

1. All SOLAS and MARPOL documents, certificates and publications required to be on board must be readily available, preferably in a central location, for examination and verification.
2. Publications obviously not applicable to a particular vessel type need not be produced; e.g., dry cargo vessels need not obtain tanker safety publications, but OBO type ships should obtain them.
3. The official Minimum Safe Manning Certificate and the original Dominica license of competence of each officer serving on board must be publicly posted in or near the chart room. Particulars of any foreign licenses held must be readily available. The Dominica Seafarer's Identification and Record Book of each crew member must be presented for examination. In the case of passenger ships the certificates of all survival craft/rescue boat crewmen, in particular, must be available. In all cases the Inspector must be given a copy of the current crew list and, if possible, the ship's emergency station bill.
4. Navigation records, publications, charts, log books, Oil Record Book, Cargo Record Book, Ballast Management documents, training records, including monthly fire and abandon ship drills and weekly safety training exercises and all similar material, must be available for inspection, preferably in one location.
5. Inspectors have the authority, and have been instructed, to make a spot check of lifesaving, fire fighting and general safety conditions covered by the SOLAS Certificate. The Master will be instructed to call in the Classification Society for examination and/or verification as may be necessary to properly establish the conditions as they exist.
6. The Master should have lifeboats uncovered and vessel's firefighting equipment and appliances as maintained in their normal stowed positions ready for examination. Sufficient crew should be on board and prepared to conduct such emergency drills as circumstances may dictate and permit.
7. The pilot ladder and associated gear such as gunwale steps, lights, manropes, etc. should be accessible and in conformance with Regulation 17 of Chapter V of SOLAS.
8. To facilitate the efficient conduct of safety inspections, one of the ship's deck officers should be available to accompany the Inspector.

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