

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: **Alternate Marine Safety Inspection Program**

REFERENCE: (a) Marine Safety Regulations, Chapter 5
(b) Marine Safety Circular INS-001
(c) Marine Safety Circular INS-003

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Circular is to describe a voluntary alternative inspection program meeting the national safety inspection requirements found in reference (a). Such a program is mentioned in reference (b) as being available to the owners and operators of vessels not subject to inspection under international conventions and certain other vessels operating in remote, or hard to reach areas where a Nautical Inspector is not routinely available.

APPLICABILITY: This Program is applicable to all vessels not expressly covered by SOLAS as defined in the “National Cargo Ship Safety Certificate” program (reference (c)) and to all vessels and platforms engaged in the offshore seabed natural resource exploration, development and production industries operating in remote, hard to reach areas, or in areas experiencing internal unrest where a national Nautical Inspector is not available on a routine basis.

REQUIREMENTS:**1.0 Qualifying Vessels**

1.1 The Alternate Inspection Program is a voluntary program applicable to:

1.1.1 all vessels issued national Cargo Ship Safety Certificates, and

1.1.2 vessels engaged in the offshore seabed natural resource exploration, development and

production industries operating in remote areas or areas experiencing internal civil unrest which normally are not accessible to a national Nautical Inspector.

- 1.2 Dominica registered vessels, such as Fishing Vessels, Research Vessels, Supply Boats, Tug Boats, Crew Boats, Yachts, Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, Mobile Offshore Units, Floating Storage units, and Floating, Production, and Off Loading Units, may be able to meet the national Safety Inspection requirements by following these procedures.

2.0 Procedures

- 2.1 **For Vessel Owner or Operator:** Owners and operators of qualifying vessels previously defined, which for one reason or another have a difficult time meeting the national requirements for Safety Inspection by a national Nautical Inspector, may meet the Dominica regulatory requirements for inspection by reaching an agreement voluntarily with one of the Classification Societies recognized by to have one of that Society's surveyors perform the inspection on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator.
 - 2.1.1 Owners and operators of vessels electing to follow the Alternate Inspection Program must agree to inform the Administration of the name of the individual responsible for the program at their company. That information must be communicated to the Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator in order that the person designated person may be contacted directly.
 - 2.1.2 As a reminder, before entering into an agreement with a Classification Society, the vessel owners or operators must be certain that the selected Classification Society is one of the four (4) recognized by the Flag Administration to conduct Safety Inspections on their behalf.
 - 2.1.3 The contracting vessel owner or operator agrees to correct any deficiencies identified by the surveyor and to notify the Office of the Maritime Administrator of those deficiencies together with the shipowner's plans for correcting them.
 - 2.1.4 The contracting vessel owner or operator understands that the vessel may be subject to an additional inspection by the surveyor from the contracted Classification Society if so directed by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner.
 - 2.1.5 The contracting vessel owner or operator is responsible for paying any fees associated, or otherwise required by the contracted Classification Society.
- 2.2 **For the Classification Society:** The Classification Society must have an agreement with the Deputy Maritime Administration to conduct Initial and Annual Safety Inspections on behalf of the Administration before entering into an agreement with the contracting vessel owner or operator.

- 2.2.1 The Classification Society must also agree:
- 2.2.1.1 to provide Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator with the name and contact information for the individual at the Classification Society responsible for managing the Alternate Inspection Program,
 - 2.2.1.2 that their surveyors conducting the Initial or Annual Safety Inspections will be familiar with the Dominica International Maritime Act, Marine Safety Regulations, and Circulars described in publication CDP-300, and the Guidelines for Nautical Inspectors established by the Administration.
 - 2.2.1.3 that the surveyors conducting the inspection will report their findings either in narrative form or by using the applicable inspection report forms provided by the Administration.
 - 2.2.1.4 send the completed Initial or Annual Safety Inspection report to the Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator for review and comment.
- 2.3 All parties are reminded that this is a voluntary program. It's purpose is to provide companies with an alternative means of complying with the requirement for an initial and annual Safety Inspection of the vessel, and does not alter any other requirements.

3.0 Scope of the Safety Inspection

- 3.1 The content of the Safety Inspection is to be sufficient for the surveyor to verify that the vessel and its equipment are in satisfactory condition for the intended route and service.
- 3.2 This Safety Inspection should include:
- 3.2.1 an examination of the ship's documents and statutory certificates to ensure that all of the required surveys have been conducted and properly recorded,
 - 3.2.2 an inspection and test of the firefighting and lifesaving equipment on board the vessel,
 - 3.2.3 an operational test of the radio equipment on board the vessel,
 - 3.2.4 a fire and abandon ship drill to determine the ability of crew to meet these emergencies,
 - 3.2.5 an examination of the vessel's log books, oil record books, and publications to determine compliance with Dominica maritime law, regulations and circulars,
 - 3.2.6 an examination of the accommodations on board the vessel, including safety equipment, emergency signs, and the sanitary conditions in the galley, quarters and work areas to ensure compliance with the applicable ILO requirements,

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- 3.2.7 an examination of the navigation equipment, charts, publications and voyage plans on board the vessel to determine compliance with the national and international rules regarding navigation as applicable to the vessel being inspected, and
- 3.2.8 an examination of the crew's licenses and seaman's booklets to determine compliance with the Minimum Safe Manning Certificate, Dominica rules regarding certification of seagoing personnel, and the requirements defined in STCW 95.
- 3.3 Verification of hull integrity, watertight closing arrangement and machinery status generally will be covered by the vessel's maintenance in-class requirements.

4.0 Modifications and Alterations

- 4.1 No modification or alterations will be required the Vessel's existing arrangements, unless the required safety equipment falls below accepted international standards or good engineering practices. The Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator, after consultation with the relevant Classification Society and the owner, will specify the number and types of replacement equipment may be carried, should this be the case, and for how long.

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