

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

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Passenger Vessels - Underwater Examination of Hull in Lieu of Drydocking**

**PURPOSE: SOLAS Regulation I-7 requires annual inspection of passenger vessel structures, including the outside of the ship's bottom. The external hull examination is normally performed with the vessel in drydock. This Circular outlines the procedures by which examination of a ship's bottom by divers in lieu of drydocking may be permitted under some circumstances.**

**APPLICABILITY: This Circular applies to all Dominica registered passenger vessels carrying more than twelve (12) persons who are not members of the crew or are not engaged in any capacity on the business of the vessel.**

**REQUIREMENTS:****1.0 Procedures**

Operators of Dominica registered vessels should make the request to perform an underwater examination in lieu of drydocking directly to the certifying Classification Society. The Classification Society will evaluate the request and, after considering all relevant information, make a recommendation to the Office of the Deputy Maritime Administrator. If the request is approved, the underwater examination will be performed according to the Classification Society procedures to the satisfaction of the attending surveyor.

**2.0 Limitations**

**2.1** Passenger vessels of 15 years of age or less are to be examined in drydock at least twice during any five year period and the span between these drydock examinations shall not

exceed three years. Underwater examinations may be requested for the three remaining annual inspections in accordance with the procedures outlined above. Due to the limit of three years between drydockings, requests for more than two consecutive underwater examinations in lieu of drydocking will not be considered.

- 2.2 Passenger vessels of more than 15 years of age must have the outer bottom of the hull examined in drydock at least every other year. Underwater examinations in lieu of drydockings for the alternate years may be requested in accordance with the procedures described above.

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