

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

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AND AUTHORIZED CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES

SUBJECT: Inspections of the outside of the cargo ship's bottom

REFERENCE: (a) SOLAS, Reg. I/10
(b) SOLAS, Reg. I/14(e) and (f)
(c) CCSS Code, Reg. 1.10.1.5, 1.10.2, 1.10.3 and 1.10.7
(d) CCSS Code, Reg. 1.13.5 and 1.13.6

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Circular is to bring to attention of all the owners and operators of the Commonwealth of Dominica flag cargo vessels the safety requirements pertaining to the inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom.

APPLICABILITY: a) Caribbean Code ships
b) SOLAS ships

REQUIREMENTS:**1 Definitions**

1.1 A *Caribbean Code ship* means a cargo ship of less than 500 gross tonnage, engaged on international voyages, trading in the Caribbean Trading Area. This excludes:

- .1 military and government ships not used for commercial purposes;
- .2 cargo ships of less than 24m in length;
- .3 pleasure craft not engaged in trade; and
- .4 fishing vessels.

1.2 A *SOLAS ship* means a cargo ship of 500 gross tonnage and over, engaged on international voyages. This excludes:

- .1 ships of war and troopships;

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- .2 ships not propelled by mechanical means;
- .3 wooden ships of primitive build;
- .4 pleasure yachts not engaged in trade; and
- .5 fishing vessels.

1.3 A certificate means:

- .1 a Caribbean Cargo Ship Safety Certificate – for the Caribbean Code ships;
- .2 a Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate or a Cargo Ship Safety Certificate, where applicable – for the SOLAS ships.

2 Required inspections of ship's bottom

2.1 The structure, machinery and equipment of a cargo ship shall be subject to a minimum of two (2) inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom during any five (5) year period, except where the period of validity of the certificate has been extended under the applicable provisions:

- .1 for the purpose of allowing the ship to complete its voyage to the port in which it is to be surveyed or, in case of a Caribbean Code ship, to the country in which it is registered; or
- .2 for a period of grace, if a certificate issued to a ship engaged on short voyages¹ has not been extended under the foregoing provisions.

Where the aforementioned extension has taken place, this five (5) year period may be extended to coincide with the extended period of validity of the certificate. In all cases the interval between any two (2) such inspections shall not exceed thirty-six (36) months.

2.2 The inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom and the survey of related items inspected at the same time shall be such as to ensure that they remain satisfactory for the service for which the ship is intended.

2.3 The inspections shall be endorsed on the certificate.

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¹ For Caribbean Code ships a short voyage means a voyage within the Caribbean Trading Area which does not extend for more than 100 nautical miles from the port of departure