

Commonwealth of Dominica



OFFICE OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Flag State Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

**Subject: TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION PROTOCOLS DURING
COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**

Date: 14 July 2020

1.0 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

1.1 The Commonwealth of Dominica (DMA) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) is providing the following information on inspection protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic for DMA-flagged vessels. Updates and new information will be posted to the Administrator’s COVID-19 website as needed.

1.2 The purpose of this MSC is to announce a Temporary Alternative Inspection Protocol (TAIP) to meet the Administrator’s inspection requirements identified in DMA Maritime Regulations where a physical inspection of the vessel by an DMA Flag State Inspector is not possible due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

2.0 APPLICABILITY

All DMA-flagged vessels requiring inspection under CD-MSC 04-08 are considered as qualifying vessels for purposes of this TAIP.

3.0 PROCEDURES FOR VESSEL OWNERS OR OPERATORS

3.1 Upon receipt of the automated “inspection due” email notification, the owner or operator must provide the vessel’s itinerary and any additional requested information to the appropriate regional office as stated in the notification.

3.2 If an in-person inspection by a Flag State Inspector is not feasible due to COVID-19 safety

concerns, the regional Administration may employ the TAIP after reviewing the performance history of the vessel and company. This includes possibly postponing or rescheduling the inspection for a later date or conducting the inspection remotely with crew interaction.

- 3.3** The Administrator may provide credit for one completed flag State inspection if all TAIP requirements are met, deficiencies reported are properly addressed according to the vessel's Safety Management System (SMS), and there are no outstanding Administration requests for additional information.

4.0 OPTIONS UNDER THE TAIP

4.1 Annual Safety Inspections

4.1.1 DMA-flagged vessels due for an inspection or becoming due for an inspection within three months of this notice, that have good flag and port State control performance histories, and are currently on a 12-month inspection interval, will be given an additional three months to complete the required annual flag State inspection.

5.0 TEMPORARY PROTOCOL

- 5.1** All parties are reminded that this is a temporary alternative program which may be employed as an alternative means to verify compliance with the Administrator's requirement for a safety inspection of the vessel. It does not alter any of the Administrator's other requirements. The final decision to utilize the TAIP will be assessed and approved by the Administrator on a case-by-case basis.
- 5.2** Communication between the vessel, owner or operator, Administrator, Recognized Organizations, and port or coastal States is critical as we must work together to ensure continued crew and vessel safety, and security and protection of the marine environment while facilitating essential maritime trade during this pandemic.

Specific questions regarding this temporary protocol may be directed to: inspection@dominica-registry.com