

Port State Control – Information Notice No. 4 of 2011

The purpose of this notice is to advise shipowners, operators, managers and Masters of Isle of Man registered ships of the following;

Port State Control Inspections Safety of Navigation – Charts, Nautical Publications & Voyage or Passage Plans

We are bringing this subject to your attention due to the increasing number of port state control deficiencies being recorded in the various MOU regions around the world.

The Ship Registry wishes to emphasise the importance of compliance with the following requirements;

- SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 19.2.1 – All ships irrespective of size, shall have, nautical charts and publications to plan and display the ship's route for the intended voyage and to plot and monitor positions throughout the voyage; an electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS) may be accepted as meeting the chart carriage requirements
- SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 34 – Safe Navigation and Avoidance of Dangerous Situations
- STCW Section A – VIII/2 - Watchkeeping at Sea, and IMO Resolution A. 893(21) - Guidelines for Voyage Planning.
- Furthermore the technical management companies responsible for their vessels should ensure compliance with the requirements on board as part of the shipboard safety management system relating to ISM Code Section 7 – Key Shipboard operations, with the use of up to date charts, nautical publications and preparation of voyage / passage plans.

It has been found during Port State Control Inspections that vessels do not have the relevant up to date charts onboard, or they are using scanned /photocopied charts. Port State Authorities will ensure that non-compliance with these requirements will also be enforced as a Port State Control issue and the non carriage of up to date charts is considered a SOLAS and ISM deficiency and may result in a detention for the vessel.

SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 34, states that prior to proceeding to sea, the Master shall ensure that the intended voyage has been planned using the appropriate nautical charts and publications for the sea areas concerned, taking into account the guidelines and recommendations developed by the Organization (Res. A.893(21)). This requires a "berth to berth" passage plan, on the relevant up to date chart(s) and is mandatory.

In order to avoid delays it is advisable that shipping companies / masters / ships agents, make arrangements to ensure that vessels are provided with the up to date chart(s) so that the passage plan and port entry can be adequately prepared in advance of the pilot boarding.

Where a vessel has an electronic (ECDIS) chart system which is the main means of navigation for that vessel, port state control inspection authorities will rigidly inspect the vessel's ECDIS system for compliance.

In respect of nautical publication deficiencies, this item has been recorded as the most prolific deficiency at PSC inspections for each of the past three years on Isle of Man registered vessels. In accordance with Regulation 27 of Chapter V of SOLAS 1974, as amended, nautical publications necessary for the intended voyage, must be adequate and up to date. These include inter alia, but are not limited to;

- Sailing Directions (pilot books)
- List of Lights
- List of Radio Signals
- Tide Tables
- Notices to Mariners

Refer to MSC / MEPC 2 Circ 2 - IMO Requirements on Carriage of Publications on Ships

Electronic versions of nautical publications stated above may be carried on board as an alternative to hard copy nautical publications. All computer software and hardware used for accessing electronic publications shall comply with the recommendations of the IMO MSC / Circ 891 – Guidelines for the onboard use and application of computers.

Guidelines for maintaining a regular and efficient system for correcting all electronic nautical publications must be provided on board. Operational guidelines for using the digital system and viewing of the publications shall be available on board and made known to the appropriate navigational watch keeping officers concerned.

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