

Paris MOU Port State Control – New inspection regime

We draw our Members' and clients' attention to the New Inspection Regime (NIR) of Paris MoU on Port State Control, which will enter in force on 1 January 2011 in all 27 Member States, including the non-EU states Canada, Croatia, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation. The PSC Directive 2009/16/EC adopted in May 2009 introduces the NIR in the European Union,.

NIR, which will replace the existing PSC system, has a risk based targeting mechanism, aimed at rewarding quality ships and operators with a reduced inspection burden, while high risk ships get more frequent in-depth inspections. At the same time, training of PSC officers will be enhanced, to harmonise the level of professional competency in Paris MoU.

To establish a risk profile for each ship, information from past inspections, company performance, performance of flag and class societies, along with parameters such as type and age of vessel will be used. When operating in the Paris MOU area, a High Risk Ship (HRS) will be inspected every 5-6 months, a Standard Risk Ship (SRS) every 10-12 months and a Low Risk Ship (LRS) every 24-36 months.

It is important to note the new Ship Reporting Obligations which are pre-arrival notification at least 24 hours in advance for all ships, but 72 hours for ships eligible for an expanded inspection. Actual time of arrival (ATA) and actual time of departure (ATD) may also have to be provided depending on the State. Ships which may be subject to an expanded inspection include all ships with a High Risk profile and any passenger ship, oil tanker, gas or chemical tanker or bulk carrier older than 12 years. Failure to report the information required may lead to a ship being targeted for inspection, and penalties may be imposed by national authorities.

As under the present PSC regime vessels may be banned from entering ports within Paris MoU states. However, each refusal of access will be given a predefined minimum duration and may also become permanent.

Useful links:

Full information on the New Inspection Regime and the reporting obligations can be found by contacting national maritime authorities or on the websites:

<http://www.emsa.europa.eu>

<http://www.parismou.org>

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