



Press release



25 August 2008

PARIS AND TOKYO MOU'S ON PORT STATE CONTROL HOLD JOINT CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION – SOLAS Ch. V. BEGINNING 1 SEPTEMBER 2008.

The 43 Maritime Authorities of the Paris and the Tokyo Memoranda on Port State Control (EU Members, the States of the Asia Pacific region, plus Canada, Croatia, Iceland, Norway, and the Russian Federation) will begin a joint concentrated inspection campaign focussing on compliance with SOLAS Chapter V – Safety of Navigation. This inspection campaign will be held for 3 months, ending on 30 November 2008.

In practice the concentrated inspection campaign will mean that during every port State control inspection within the Paris and Tokyo MOU regions, the navigation related equipment and documentation shall be verified in more detail for compliance with SOLAS Chapter V. Port State Control Officers will verify that there is compliance with the carriage requirements for all size of ships and where required also valid statutory certification together with relevant record of equipment, as well as that equipment has type approval and is functioning effectively. Furthermore familiarity of the master and watch-keeping officers with the bridge equipment will be evaluated.

During the campaign Port State Control Officers shall use a list of 12 selected items to verify critical areas for the safety of navigation, some of which are related to:

- Documentation
- Equipment
- Familiarisation

When deficiencies are found, actions by the port State may vary from recording a deficiency and instructing the master to rectify within a certain period to detention of the ship until all deficiencies have been rectified.

In case of detention, the ship could face the risk of further inspections in other Paris and Tokyo MOU ports and publication in the monthly list of detentions issued by the Secretariat of the Paris MOU and Tokyo MOU web page, on line detention list.

All inspections will be inserted in the databases of the Paris and Tokyo MOUs, SIRENAC and APCIS respectively, and will be recorded on an evaluation form. The results of the campaign shall be analysed later this year. Detailed results of the campaign will be discussed during the 42nd meeting of the Paris MOU Port State Control Committee in May 2009 in Iceland and during the 19th Committee meeting of the Tokyo MOU, in 2009, in Papua New Guinea.

For 2009 a joint Paris and Tokyo MOU concentrated inspection campaign has been planned which will focus on Lifeboat Launching Arrangements, including Maintenance and records, Operational safety, On-load releases, Davits and winches, as well as Drills.

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Notes to editors:

Paris MOU	Tokyo MOU
<p>Regional Port State Control was initiated in 1982 when fourteen European countries agreed to co-ordinate their port State inspection effort under a voluntary agreement known as the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MOU). Current membership includes 27 countries. The European Commission, although not a signatory to the Paris MOU, is also a member of the Committee.</p> <p>Inspection reports are recorded on a central database SReNaC located in St Malo - France, available for search and daily updating by MoU member countries. Inspection results can be viewed on the Paris MoU public website and are also provided to the Equasis public database.</p> <p>The Secretariat of the MoU is provided by the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Public works and Water Management and located in The Hague.</p>	<p>The Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region, known as the Tokyo MOU, was signed among eighteen maritime Authorities in the region on 1 December 1993 and came into operation on 1 April 1994. Currently, the Memorandum has 18 full members, namely: Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Vietnam.</p> <p>The Secretariat of the Memorandum is located in Tokyo, Japan. The PSC database system, the Asia-Pacific Computerized Information System (APCIS), was established. The APCIS centre is located in Moscow, under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation.</p>
<p>Port State Control is a check on visiting foreign ships to see that they comply with international rules on safety, pollution prevention and seafarers living and working conditions. It is a means of enforcing compliance where the owner and flag State have failed in their responsibility to implement or ensure compliance. The port State can require defects to be put right, and detain the ship for this purpose if necessary. It is therefore also a port State's defence against visiting substandard shipping.</p>	
<p>At least once a year the inspections focus on a certain area of concern or when new requirements enter into force. In 2007 the concentrated inspections were aimed at the verification of the effective implementation onboard of the ISM system. In the fall of 2009 the inspection campaign will be aimed at lifeboat launching arrangements.</p>	