

PRESS RELEASE

CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN (CIC) ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION INCL. ECDIS

The six member Authorities (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine) of the Memorandum of Understanding on PSC in the Black Sea Region (BS MOU) will conduct a concentrated inspection campaign on Safety of Navigation incl. ECDIS. The three-month campaign will start on September 1, 2017 and end on November 30, 2017 under the co-ordination of Executive Agency Maritime Administration, Republic of Bulgaria Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications. The campaign shall be conducted simultaneously with the Paris MOU and Tokyo MOU and other MOUs.

During the campaign period, member Authorities of the BS MOU will inspect, within the resources available, as many ships as possible in conjunction with routine port State control inspections. A ship should only be subject to one inspection under this CIC during the period of the campaign.

Navigation equipment has always been major inspection items for PSCOs. Black Sea MOU had conducted CIC for SOLAS Chapter V concerning safety of navigation.

However, the regulations on navigation equipment have undergone frequent changes according to a series of amendments from IMO on SOLAS Chapter V (safety of navigation). Of all deficiencies, those concerning navigation equipment contribute a major proportion. During the last three years the deficiencies concerning safety of navigation are at the top of the list of all deficiencies with 17.5 %. Among all detainable deficiencies those concerning safety of navigation are also heading with 15.4%.

Additionally the ECDIS had contributed much to maintain navigation safety and reduce navigational workload of seafarers since its application.

The CIC aims at checking the conformity of safety regulations for ships, the overall status of the vessel's navigation safety, and the competency of crew involved in navigation operations.

For the purpose of interregional harmonization of the action, the BS MOU will use the model of relevant Questionnaire developed by the Tokyo MOU with a checklist of 12 selected questions to assure that the installed on board related equipment conforms with valid legal certificates, type approval certificates, and is accompanied with proper records. The captain and officers in duty are familiar with operation of bridge equipment, especially ECDIS and the related equipment receives proper maintenance and is functioning properly.

If deficiencies are found, actions by the Port State Control Officer may vary from recording a deficiency and instructing the master to rectify it within a certain period to detaining the ship until serious deficiencies have been rectified. All inspections will be inserted in the Black Sea Information System (BSIS) and will be published on-line at the MOU web-site.

The results of the campaign shall be analysed and finding will be presented to the Black Sea MOU Committee for submission to the IMO.

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