



ST KITTS & NEVIS INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY

MARITIME CIRCULAR – MC 103 21

AMENDMENTS TO THE VESSEL INSPECTION SCHEME

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Maritime Circular is to advise Shipowners and Ship Managers of the amendments to the Vessel Inspection Scheme criteria and procedure, as detailed in Maritime Circular MC, 86 18.
- 1.2. The amendments to this scheme will consider methods to assist the Ship Owners and Ship Managers in maintaining standards onboard their vessels and reduce the possibility of delays by identifying defects, not to penalise the party.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. **Age** means the period in years between the year of completion of the initial build or year that the vessel is rebuilt as stated on the Builders Certificate or the Classification Certificate issued by a Recognised Organisation, and the current year.
- 2.2. **Anniversary date** means the same date each year on which the vessel was registered as a Saint Christopher and Nevis ship and on which date each subsequent year's taxes are due. E.g., **09 March 2020**
- 2.3. **Commercial vessel** means a vessel used for commercial purposes including the carriage of cargo and/or passengers.
- 2.4. **Existing vessel** means a Saint Christopher and Nevis ship registered prior to the date of entry into force of this amended inspection scheme.
- 2.5. **Flag Inspector** means a suitably qualified inspector engaged by SKANReg to inspect vessels registered in Saint Christopher and Nevis for compliance with industry conventions.
- 2.6. **Newly registered vessel** means any vessel in which this scheme applies to, is registered after the date in which the amended scheme enters into force.
- 2.7. **Shipowner** means, in respect of a registered ship, the registered owner.
- 2.8. **Ship Manager**, in connection with the ISM Code, is the party that has assumed the responsibility for operation of the ship from the Shipowner and who on assuming such responsibility has agreed to take over all the duties and responsibility imposed by the Code.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. In conjunction with Maritime Circulars MC 86 18, St Kitts and Nevis International Ship Registry announced a vessel inspection scheme on 14th December 2018, which would enter into force on 1st January 2019. The focus of the inspection scheme was based on the following criteria:
 - 3.1.1. Vessels of 30 years and over; and trading within the waters of member states within the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
 - 3.1.2. Ships detained within the last 12 months, irrespective of the PSC MoU.
 - 3.1.3. Ships that have been detained twice (2) within the previous 24 months, regardless of the previous flag;

- 3.1.4. Vessels that intend to call within the water of member states within the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

4. Application

4.1. The Vessel Inspection Scheme shall not apply to the following:

- 4.1.1. Pleasure vessels
- 4.1.2. Non-propelled vessels
- 4.1.3. Vessels solely operating within the national waters of Saint Christopher and Nevis

5. Amendments to the scheme

- 5.1. Sub-point 3.1.1 will change from 30 years to 20 years.
- 5.2. The geographical conditions (Paris MoU) mentioned in Sub-point 3.1.1 would be removed, and this scheme shall now apply globally.
- 5.3. The condition stated in 3.1.4 will be amended as follows:

Vessels that intend to call within the water of member states within the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and have not done so previously or within the last 12 months of the last Port State Control Inspection

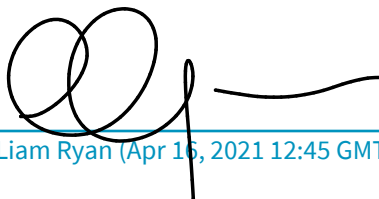
- 5.4. Further to a flag inspection where the results are considered good or very good, by the attending Inspector, a recommendation to increase the next inspection date by 15 months may be considered. Otherwise, the existing yearly inspection regime will continue.
- 5.5. Inspection windows extended to 15 months will be subject to satisfactory Port State Control performances and additional flag inspections may be required as a result of high count of deficiencies being recorded at a PSC inspection.
- 5.6. Shipowners and ship managers may apply for a dispensation on the flag inspection should the vessel be subject to a satisfactory Port State Control inspection less than 30 days before the inspection date where 5 or less deficiencies are recorded.

6. Implementation

- 6.1. The entry into force of this change shall be immediate and will apply to newly registered vessels.
- 6.2. For existing vessels, the entry into force shall be the anniversary date of the next annual taxes.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Yours truly,



[Liam Ryan \(Apr 16, 2021 12:45 GMT\)](#)

Liam Ryan
International Registrar of Shipping and Seamen