Gibraltar Maritime Administration
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Shipping Information Notice – 096(a)
Survey and certification – Alternative Means
(Repeals SIN 096)

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, Certifying Authorities, and Recognised Organisations

Summary

This Shipping Information Notice (SIN) sets out the Gibraltar Maritime Administration's requirements for survey and certification inclusive of the Administration's policy towards case by case acceptances of alternative survey means such as remote surveys associated with exceptional circumstances.

1. Introduction

1.1 At the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Administration put in place a pragmatic framework for the certification of Gibraltar registered vessels to enable their continued operation.

1.2 As national and international restrictions which were put in place as a result of the pandemic are now for the most part no longer in effect, the survey, inspection, and audit of Gibraltar registered vessels remain subject to the mandatory statutory and classification regime of surveys and certification under the relevant Conventions, Codes, etc.

1.3 In all cases, the survey, inspection and audit of Gibraltar registered vessels are to be undertaken via physical attendances by the Administration, or by the Administration's Recognised Organisations (RO) or Certifying Authorities (CA) in accordance with applicable authorizations for statutory functions which may be undertaken on behalf of the Administration.

2. Mandatory Surveys & Inspections via alternative means/remote surveys

2.1 Gibraltar Maritime Administration does recognize that there may be exceptional circumstances where a physical attendance by surveyors from the Administration, RO, or CA may not be possible, and where alternative means such as remote attendances/surveys may be considered.

2.2 Gibraltar Maritime Administration will consider applications in respect of 2.1 above on a case by case basis in respect of the eligible survey items as detailed within the International Association of Class Societies (IACS) UR Z29, Table 1.

2.3 In cases where a variation to the traditional survey processes such as via remote means are to be considered, the review and technical consideration of those processes are to be recorded and presented by the RO or CA to the Administration with a recommendation for their use as alternative measures.

2.4 Any application to consider alternative measures must contain a detailed description of the applicable statutory function(s) and circumstances which dictate that the relevant activity cannot be undertaken via a physical attendance.

2.5 Reviews and technical considerations in respect of alternative means such as remote surveys should ensure a level of assurance and effectiveness equivalent to a survey physically undertaken by a surveyor.

2.6 When assessing use of alternative means such as remote surveys, RO's and CA's are to take into account the requirements of IACS UR Z29, and which in addition must include the following:

2.6.1 Review of Class records;
2.6.2 Review of Port State Control performance;
2.6.3 Review of ISM vessel and company performance;
2.6.4 Reports of any incident, accidents, or casualties associated with the vessel;
2.6.5 Any other information relevant to the condition or operation of the vessel.

2.7 Applications to the Administration for alternative measures should not proceed if the review of the vessel and company performance gives any cause for concern.

2.8 Following review by the Administration of a submitted application by an RO or CA for the use of alternative means, the Administration will inform the RO or CA of the decision taken in respect of the application.

3. International Safety Management (ISM) Code, International Ship & Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, and Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006

3.1 Delegated shipboard verifications via remote means in respect of ISM, ISPS, & MLC will not be considered.

4. Non-mandatory surveys/inspections

4.1 Non-Mandatory surveys/inspections will be conducted at the discretion on the Administration. Operators are advised to contact the Administration in respect of such surveys/inspections.

5. Ad-hoc mandatory surveys

5.1 Ad-hoc mandatory surveys such as those for load-line exemptions for tows, repositioning voyages, etc, will be conducted at the discretion on the Administration as resource availability dictates. Operators are advised to contact the Administration in respect of such surveys.

Steve Gomez – Chief Surveyor (Ag)
For & on behalf of the Maritime Administrator

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