



Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR)

Circular to Clients

Circular No.10

Date: January 15, 2025

From:

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The Vanuatu Maritime Administration (VLAS) has introduced a new initiative designed to improve compliance and ensure safety within the Paris MoU region. The program focuses on enhancing inspection protocols to minimize detentions and address the increasing scrutiny of vessels flying the Vanuatu flag. These measures aim to maintain high standards of performance and safety for Vanuatu-flagged vessels trading in the region. To achieve these objectives, it is crucial to adhere to the conditions outlined below, ensuring compliance and operational excellence.

Vessels detained during Paris MoU PSC inspections within the last 24 months will be required to undergo:

- **Three (3) General Condition Surveys (GCS) conducted by Flag State Inspectors (FSI) in a 12-month period, focusing on compliance with ISM Code, certification standards, and operational condition.**

Vessels without detentions during Paris MoU PSC inspections in the past 24 months will be subject to:

- **Two (2) GCS by FSI, in a 12-month period ensuring adherence to high standards of safety and performance.**

Additionally, for vessels calling at Italian ports, a more targeted inspection protocol has been established. Any ship scheduled to call at an Italian port must complete;

- **GCS conducted by FSI prior to arrival, ensuring all potential deficiencies are identified and resolved beforehand. This requirement enhances compliance with local and regional regulations, minimizing the risk of operational disruptions.**

Moreover, for Vanuatu-flagged vessels calling at Italian ports, the frequency of GCS conducted by FSI will be as follows:

- **Vessels that successfully complete such surveys in Italy will not be subject to GCS at the same Italian port or any other Italian ports for the next six (6) months.**
- **Furthermore, Vessels that have passed a Paris MoU PSC inspection at an Italian port within the three (3) months prior to the implementation of this FSL are exempt from undergoing additional GCS at Italian ports for the subsequent three (3) months.**

To ensure the proper and efficient tracking of port calls for vessels, it is imperative that pre-arrival checklists for ships are submitted to info@register-vu.com at least 72 hours prior to arrival.

In addition to above, all shipowners, managers, masters, and special agents are kindly requested to diligently monitor the port calls of the vessels under their responsibility. Every effort should be made to ensure that (GCS) are conducted in accordance with the specified frequencies outlined above.

These measures are tailored to enhance operational efficiency while ensuring compliance with all relevant safety and regulatory standards. They provide focused oversight for vessels requiring closer monitoring, while recognizing and rewarding a history of strong compliance.

Inspections will be conducted with strict adherence to ISM Code requirements, certification standards, and the vessel's operational condition. Special attention will be given to life-saving equipment, fire safety measures, and crew drills to ensure compliance and readiness. Surveyors are expected to maintain a high level of diligence and rigor during these inspections.

Shipowners and Operators must ensure that deficiencies identified during inspections are addressed immediately. In cases where on-the-spot rectification is not feasible, a formal request for an extension must be submitted to the VLAS Technical Department. Upon approval, a provisional period will be granted for the agreed duration, which will be extended after confirmation of rectification.

VLAS will closely monitor inspection schedules and compliance, with the Technical Department ensuring meticulous oversight of all inspection-related activities. Special agents and flag state inspectors are also expected to uphold the highest standards of diligence in carrying out their responsibilities.

The program emphasizes proactive compliance. Non-compliance with the requirements may lead to penalties, including financial fines suspension of certification or restrictions on trading and operations.

All stakeholders, including shipowners, ISM operators, recognized organizations, and safety inspectors, are strongly encouraged to carefully review and implement the measures outlined in this initiative. Collective efforts are vital for maintaining compliance and upholding the reputable status of Vanuatu-flagged vessels in international waters.

For assistance or further clarification, stakeholders are advised to contact the VLAS Technical Department directly at technical@register-vu.com.



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