



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 5-034-4

11/14

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Compulsory Special Safety Inspections for Ships Arriving in the United States
that May be Due for a Port State Control Examination or a Tank Vessel
Certificate of Compliance Examination.**

References: (a) **RMI Maritime Regulations (MI-108), Chapter 5, Marine Inspections**
(b) <http://cgmix.uscg.mil/PSIX/PSIXSearch.aspx>
(c) **RMI Marine Notice 2-011-20**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Notice is to announce additional evaluation and inspection requirements for vessels calling in United States (US) ports that may be due for a port State control (PSC) examination or a tank vessel Certificate of Compliance (CoC) examination. The US Coast Guard (USCG) is raising their criteria for Flag Administration recognition and the associated benefits to vessels under its QUALSHIP 21 program. In addition, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator") has seen an increase in the number of well-maintained ships detained due to easily rectified deficiencies. These detentions are increasingly due to a lack of preparedness for an examination and general knowledge of the ship's crew to successfully demonstrate normal shipboard equipment and procedures during an examination. In order to maintain the quality of the RMI fleet and minimize operational risks for the overall benefit of shipowners/operators, vessels calling in US ports will be evaluated and may be inspected by the Administrator at the first or second port prior to arrival in a US port.

APPLICABILITY:

This Notice applies to all ships arriving in the US or its territories that are due for a PSC examination or a tank vessel CoC examination.

REQUIREMENTS:

1.0 General Requirements for Special Inspections

1.1 Paragraph 5.34.6 of reference (a) above states: "The Maritime Administrator, or an official who is authorized to act for and on behalf of the Maritime Administrator, in addition to the above inspections, may require a vessel to undergo a special or unscheduled safety

inspection at any time for any purpose.”

- 1.2 Henceforward, all ships arriving in the US or its territories that are due for a PSC inspection or a tank vessel CoC examination shall be subject to an additional evaluation and possible “special inspection” at the first or second port prior to arrival in a US port.
- 1.3 This evaluation and possible special inspection is mandatory for vessels that are due or scheduled for a PSC or tank vessel CoC examination. Vessel operators should use the hyperlink in reference (b) above to determine if they may be due for a PSC or a tank vessel CoC examination. In general, if it has been one (1) year since the last PSC examination or since the last arrival in a US port, vessel operators should consider their vessel due for a USCG PSC examination.
- 1.4 At the discretion of the Administrator, the Designated Person Ashore (DPA) may be directed to request a statutory survey through the appropriate Recognized Organization (RO) acting on behalf of the Administrator.
- 1.5 In addition to the above evaluation and special inspection requirements, vessel operators are reminded of the 96-hour advance Notice of Arrival (NOA) requirement in RMI Marine Notice 2-011-20, paragraph 6.1 (reference (c) above). “Masters and/or vessel agents must notify the flag State of a vessel destined to a US port concurrently with the USCG National Vessel Movement Center (NVMC) notice (96-hour NOA) via NOA@register-iri.com.”
- 1.6 Vessel operators shall complete the Special Inspection Vessel Itinerary Notification ([MSD 005](#)) form and send it to Inspections@register-iri.com to schedule the evaluation and possible special inspection at the first or second port prior to arrival in a US port. Sufficient time should be allowed for scheduling an authorized RMI Nautical Inspector’s attendance, keeping in mind travel may be required to attend the vessel.
- 1.7 It is understood that some operations may not lead to advance notice of ports prior to arrival in a US port. In these cases, vessel operators should contact the Administrator at the email address in paragraph 1.6 above for further guidance as soon as it is practical to do so prior to arrival in a US port. The Administrator will provide additional guidance for these operators based on the expected port of arrival.
- 1.8 If a special inspection is carried out by the Administrator, and depending on the outcome of the special inspection, the vessel may be credited for its annual safety inspection.
- 1.9 Further questions or concerns regarding this compulsory evaluation and possible special inspection may be directed to the email address in paragraph 1.6 above.