



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 5-034-2

Rev. 6/15

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

SUBJECT: Alternate Safety Inspection Program

References: (a) RMI Maritime Regulations ([MI-108](#)), section 5.34.7
(b) RMI Marine Notice [5-034-1](#), *Safety Inspection Program*
(c) RMI Marine Notice [2-011-8](#), *National Safety Requirements for Miscellaneous Vessels*
(d) RMI Mobile Offshore Unit Standards ([MI-293](#))

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Notice is to describe an alternative program for meeting the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator's (the "Administrator") Safety Inspection requirements found in reference (a) above and described in reference (b) above to the owners and operators of vessels not covered by the international conventions and certain other vessels operating in remote, offshore, or other areas where a Nautical Inspector may not be readily available.

This Notice supersedes Rev. 8/06 and reflects the updating of the References section and the addition of hyperlinks to referenced documents throughout.

APPLICABILITY:

For purposes of this program, the following are considered as qualifying vessels:

- All vessels issued RMI Cargo Ship Certificates;
- Vessels engaged in the offshore seabed natural resource exploration, development and production industries;
- Vessels operating in remote areas or areas experiencing internal civil unrest which are not accessible to an RMI Nautical Inspector; and
- Fishing Vessels, Research Vessels, Supply Boats, Tug Boats, Crew Boats, Yachts and Mobile Offshore Units not engaged in offshore seabed natural resource exploration, development and production industries.

REQUIREMENTS:

1.0 Procedures for Vessel Owner or Operator

An owner and/or operator of a qualifying vessel previously defined may meet the RMI Safety Inspection requirement by reaching an agreement with the vessel's Classification Society to have a Society surveyor perform the inspection on behalf of the Administrator concurrently with the Society's annual survey of the vessel.

- 1.1 Owners and operators of vessels electing to follow the Alternate Inspection Program must agree to inform the Administrator of the name of the individual responsible for the program in their company, and the information needed by the Administrator to contact the responsible person.
- 1.2 Before entering into an agreement with the Classification Society, the vessel owner or operator must be certain that the selected Classification Society has an agreement with the Administrator to conduct Safety Inspections on behalf of the Administrator.
- 1.3 The contracting vessel owner or operator agrees to correct any deficiencies identified by the surveyor just as would be done for deficiencies cited by a Nautical Inspector for the Administrator.
- 1.4 The contracting vessel owner or operator understands that the vessel may be subject to an additional inspection by a surveyor from the contracted Classification Society if so directed by the Administrator.
- 1.5 The contracting vessel owner or operator is responsible for making payments in accordance with their agreement with the Classification Society.

2.0 Procedures for the Classification Society

The Classification Society must have an agreement with the Administrator to conduct Initial and Annual Safety Inspection on behalf of the Administrator before entering into an agreement with the contracting vessel owner or operator.

- 2.1 the Classification Society must also agree:
 - .1 to provide the Administrator with the name and contact information for the individual at the Classification Society responsible for managing the Alternate Inspection Program;
 - .2 that their surveyors conducting the Initial or Annual Safety Inspection will be familiar with the RMI [Maritime Act](#), [Regulations](#), [Notices](#) and the *Guidelines for Nautical Inspectors*, RMI publication [MSD 255](#), established by the Administrator;
 - .3 that the surveyors conducting the inspection will report their findings by using the applicable [inspection report forms](#) provided by the Administrator; and

- .4 to send the completed Initial or Annual Safety Inspection report to the [Administrator](#) for review and comment.
- 2.2 The contracting vessel owner or operator entering into this agreement shall understand that payment for the service rendered by the Classification Society shall be in accordance with the standard billing practices of the Classification Society.
- 2.3 The Administrator shall review the inspection report and send a letter to the contracting vessel owner or operator, and the Classification Society regarding results of the inspection.
- 2.4 All parties are reminded that this is a program which may be followed by companies seeking an alternative means of complying with the Administrator's requirement for an Initial and Annual Safety Inspection of the vessel, and it does not alter any of the Administrator's other requirements.

3.0 Scope of the Safety Inspection

- 3.1 The Classification Society will use the appropriate RMI [inspection form](#) supplied by the Administrator. The inspection will include:
 - .1 an examination of the ship's documents and statutory certificates to ensure that all of the required surveys have been conducted and properly recorded;
 - .2 an examination of the vessel's log books, oil record books, and publications to determine compliance with the RMI [Maritime Act](#), [Regulations](#) and [Marine Notices](#);
 - .3 verification of compliance with Minimum Safe Manning requirements;
 - .4 an examination of the crew's certificates and Seafarer's Identification and Record Books to determine compliance with the Minimum Safe Manning Certificate, RMI [Maritime Regulations](#) regarding certification of seagoing personnel, and the requirements defined in STCW;
 - .5 an examination of the Medicine Chest and medical publications;
 - .6 an examination of the accommodations on board the vessel, including safety equipment, emergency signs, and the sanitary conditions in the galley, quarters and work areas to ensure compliance with the applicable ILO Convention requirements;
 - .7 an operational test of the radio equipment on board the vessel;
 - .8 an examination of navigational aids and emergency communications;
 - .9 an examination of the navigation equipment, charts, publications and voyage plans on board the vessel to determine compliance with the National and international rules regarding navigation as applicable to the vessel being inspected;

- .10 an inspection and test of the firefighting and lifesaving equipment on board the vessel;
 - .11 a fire and abandon ship drill to determine the ability of crew to meet these emergencies;
and
 - .12 an assessment of objective evidence indicating the existence of an effective Safety Management System being in place.
- 3.2 Verification of hull integrity, watertight closing arrangement and machinery status will be covered by the vessel's maintenance in class.

4.0 Modifications and Alterations

- 4.1 No modification or alterations will be required in existing arrangements, unless the provision of equipment falls below generally accepted international standards or normal good shipbuilding practice. The Administrator, after consultation with the relevant Classification Society and the owner, will specify the number and type of units of equipment to be carried should this be the case.