



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

**OFFICE OF THE
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

Marine Guideline

No. 5-34-1

Rev. 8/13

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

SUBJECT: Voluntary Self-Inspection Program.

References:

- (a) Marshall Islands Maritime Regulations (MI-108), Chapter 5.34.10
- (b) SOLAS
- (c) MARPOL 73/78
- (d) STCW Convention, 1978, as amended

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Marine Guideline is to provide guidance for developing a basic safety inspection program for any vessel within the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) fleet. It describes basic safety considerations for the most common areas of inspections and lays out the guidelines for submission of Voluntary Self-Inspection Program materials for approval by the RMI Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator"). This Guideline supersedes the original issue of 10/06 and reflects the updating of reference (a) above, the updating of the Applicability section and the updating of the final paragraph of the Guideline.

APPLICABILITY:

This Marine Guideline applies to all RMI flagged vessels not required to undergo an Annual Safety Inspection or Compliance Verification. Those vessels include:

- Unmanned barges;
- Private yachts not engaged in trade or the carriage of passengers for hire; and
- Cargo vessels under 400 gross tons.

The Administrator feels that regardless of the size and service of a vessel flying the RMI flag, a safety inspection program should be in place to ensure the safety of the crew and the vessel and to protect the environment. For vessels that are not required to have an inspection by external inspectors, a voluntary self-inspection program that is sanctioned by the Administrator is viewed as a viable alternative to ensure all RMI vessels are operated in a safe manner.

GENERAL PROVISION:

Almost all inspection programs address four (4) basic areas of consideration:

- Life saving
- Fire fighting
- Pollution prevention
- Navigation safety

Therefore, vessel owners should develop a routine inspection program that covers these areas to ensure that their vessels are operated in the safest manner possible.

When developing a voluntary self-inspection program, the following should be included as items to be inspected at least on an annual basis, preferably on the occasion of the anniversary date of vessel registration.

1.0 **Inspection of Lifesaving equipment:**

- ***Lifejackets*** -
 - approved type;
 - free from dry rot;
 - straps will secure the lifejacket without breaking;
 - flotation material is in good condition;
 - retro-reflective tape, lights and whistles are in good condition;
 - one lifejacket is available for each person on board; and
 - instructions for proper donning of lifejackets posted in a conspicuous location.
- ***Ring buoys*** -
 - approved type;
 - light, lines, and markings in satisfactory condition; and
 - if smoke type, smoke canister is in good condition and not past expiration date.
- ***Survival craft*** -
 - approved type;
 - sufficient size to accommodate everyone on board;
 - serviced per manufactures recommendation; and
 - launching appliances, if any, properly maintained and in good working condition.
- ***EPIRB*** -
 - serviced; and
 - properly mounted.

2.0 **Inspection of fire fighting equipment:**

- ***Portable extinguishers-***
 - approved type;
 - serviced per manufactures recommendations; and
 - proper type for the location.

- ***Fixed system-***
 - alarms tested;
 - sprinkler (discharge) heads unobstructed;
 - ventilation closures in good operating condition;
 - CO₂ cylinders or other medium filled to proper capacity;
 - piping, valves, and controls in good condition;
 - required number of fire pumps; and
 - pump, hydrants, hoses and nozzles in good condition and ready for use.

- ***Fire and smoke detection systems-***
 - alarms tested; and
 - sensors tested.

- ***Structural fire protection-***
 - bulkheads, insulation, and penetrations properly maintained to retard the spread of fire.

3.0 **Inspection of navigational equipment:**

- ***Radar(s) -***
 - serviced as required; and
 - tested.

- ***Charts and Publication -***
 - current editions; and
 - updated.

- ***Communications -***
 - effective for area of operation;
 - properly maintained; and
 - tested.

4.0 **Inspection of pollution prevention equipment:**

- ***Oil water separator -***
 - tested; and
 - properly maintained.

- **Marine Sanitation Device** -
 - approved type; and
 - properly maintained.
- **Garbage** -
 - retained on board; and
 - disposed of properly.
- **Overboard Discharges** -
 - for discharge of clean water only; and
 - properly secured if necessary.

PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS:

Along with the inspection of equipment, the competence of the personnel assigned to the vessel must also be addressed in any safety system. The voluntary self-inspection program should describe each position on board and the requirements of that position.

5.0 Crew Requirements

Each vessel should have on board a sufficient number of personnel to allow the vessel to safely carry out its intended service.

- **Master, Skipper or Person-in-charge**
 - holds proper certificate for size and type of vessel, or in some cases has company certificate for the position held;
 - appears familiar with the characteristics and stability of the vessel;
 - displays knowledge of safe navigation and operation of the vessel; and
 - has owner's authority to control the vessel's movement and the performance of the crew.
- **Other deck officers-**
 - hold proper certificate for size and type of vessel, or company certification in some cases;
 - appear familiar with the characteristics and stability of the vessel; and
 - display knowledge of safe navigation and operation of the vessel.
- **Deck hands** -
 - hold proper certificate for the job assigned, or company certification in some cases; and
 - displays knowledge of particular job assignment.

- ***Chief Engineer-***
 - hold proper certificate for size and type, or company certification in some cases;
 - displays knowledge of main and auxiliary power supplies; and
 - has owner's authority to act in this position and to direct the performance of the engineering crew.

- ***Other Engineering personnel***
 - hold proper certificate for size and type, or company certification in some cases.

6.0 Communications Requirements

In addition to having an adequate crew that is deemed capable of performing as required for the intended service of the vessel, provisions must be made to ensure someone is capable of operating all communications equipment on board.

SUBMISSION OF VOLUNTARY SELF-INSPECTION PROGRAM MATERIALS FOR APPROVAL:

All RMI vessels to which this Guideline applies should submit all materials pertaining to a Voluntary Self-Inspection Program to the Administrator for review and approval. This material should include:

- Inspection Instructions
- Sample logbook entries
- Inspection checklists