

M. S. Notice 14 of 2010 - Flag State Inspection (General Inspection) - Inspection of Indian Registered Ships - reg. (Superseded by M.S. Notice 19 of 2013)

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**No: ENG/FSI/66(1)/07-
1 2010**

Dated: 13th September,

Subject: Flag State Inspection (General Inspection) - Inspection of Indian Registered Ships - reg.

Ref. : Engineering Circular No. [96](#), [102](#)

1. Attention is drawn to Circular No. 24 of 1975 and other instructions, issued from time to time regarding 'General Inspection' of Indian registered ships by the surveyors of Mercantile Marine Departments (MMD).
2. Prior to the delegation of surveys related to 'safety equipment' to the Indian Register of Shipping, a 'General Inspection' of the vessel was being carried out by the Mercantile Marine Department surveyors, during the annual safety equipment survey. Further, from the analysis of the Port State Control detentions of Indian flag ships in foreign ports, it is observed that most of the detentions relate to failure on the ship's staff and management towards preventive and corrective maintenance of ship and ship's equipment.
3. In order to further strengthen the effective discharge of responsibilities and obligations as required of Flag States under Article 217 of UNCLOS and other IMO instruments, it is desirable that certain vessels registered under Indian flag are inspected by the flag State surveyor at least once in a year.
4. It is henceforth directed that the surveyors shall carry out Flag State Inspection (FSI) as prescribed under Sections 287, 290, 294, 318, 356 (C), 356 (G) and 356 (H) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 as amended, once in every year, on all Indian registered ships identified below;
 - i. Bulk Carriers more than 15 years old.
 - ii. Oil & Chemical Tankers more than 20 years old.
 - iii. General Cargo ship more than 20 years old.
 - iv. Gas tankers more than 25 years old.
5. Ships that are not calling at Indian ports are to be offered for inspection as and when they call any Indian port. In case the vessel(s) are not calling any Indian port for a period of more than one year, the company is required to inform the Port State Control cell of the Directorate, to enable taking action as appropriate.
6. All offshore vessels more than 15 years old are required to undergo flag State inspection (FSI) at least once in a year. Demonstrable efforts need to be made to ensure that this inspection of offshore vessels is completed within the window of three months prior to the onset of monsoon (1st June to 31st August - West Coast of India; 1st May - 30th November - East Coast of India)
 - i. All such offshore vessels operating in the West Coast, the window period commences from 1st March every year.
 - ii. All such offshore vessels operating in the east coast, the window period commences from 1st February every year.
 - iii. Such vessels whose flag State inspection is completed prior to 3 months of the aforesaid window period, the validity of such flag State inspection will be considered as 6 months from the date of inspection and another inspection will be required, before the expiry of these six months.
 - iv. If an offshore vessel is attaining an age of 15 years during the above mentioned monsoon period, the flag State inspection is required to be completed as stated at para 6.1 to 6.3.

v. Offshore vessels below 15 years of age are required to undergo flag State inspection once in a calendar year.

7. 'Additional' inspection may also be undertaken by the flag State surveyors between the periodic statutory surveys carried out by the Recognized Organizations for ships where adverse reports/complaints are received from bonafide sources, ship involved in pollution, grounding or stranding on its way into ports etc. MMDs shall make all efforts to carry out Flag State Inspection (FSI) of such vessels annually even if they do not fall under the age limit prescribed above.
8. Flag State inspection will include general inspection of the vessel and implementation of the safety management system. Special attention should be given to ships operating with survey extensions and condition of class.
9. All shipping companies are advised to forward the monthly statement of FSI of their vessels by the 6th of every month to the Port State control cell of the Directorate, along with the list of all the vessels registered under the Indian flag.
10. A vessel requiring flag State inspection must give notice of arrival to the nearest Mercantile Marine Department at least 72 hours before arrival.
11. With a view to expedite the effective enforcement of flag state inspection and to tackle emergencies or to overcome any crisis, the D. G. Shipping retains the right to take action to the effect of amending the above instructions or the category of vessels specified in the foregoing.

This issues with the approval of the Director-General of Shipping.

Sd/-

(D. Mehrotra)

Dy. Chief Surveyor-cum-Sr. DDG (Tech.)