

GIBRALTAR MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
(Ministry of Maritime Affairs)



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Shipping Information Notice – 013

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers

Port State Control

Recently, the Gibraltar Flag obtained 'White List' status under the Paris MOU. In the main, this achievement was due to the performance of conscientious owners and operators of Gibraltar Flagged vessels, as well as previous measures put in place by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration.

However, recently the number of detentions to Gibraltar registered vessels has increased. As well as giving cause for concern, any further increase in the number of detentions could jeopardize Gibraltar's white list status on the Paris MOU.

This Administration has found, that in most cases, deficiencies and detentions recorded against its registered vessels are easily avoidable by better on board management.

Now that 'White List' status has been achieved, it is the intention that Gibraltar maintains it. In this regard, further pro-active measures will be implemented by this Administration, with immediate effect. Those measures will consist of the following:

1. A vessel with an increased number of port state control deficiencies recorded against it, will result in a letter being sent from this Administration, to the owners/operators expressing concern, the fact that the vessel is being monitored by flag, and a request for what action is being taken to address and improve the situation.
2. In the case of a vessel, which continues to record an increased number of deficiencies after a letter of concern has been sent, or where the vessel has been detained and the port state control performance of the operators has been consistently poor, the owners/operators will be requested to present the vessel for a flag state inspection so appropriate remedial measures can be implemented. Such measures may include an enhanced (6-monthly) inspection regime.
3. Failure to present the vessel for a flag state inspection as soon as practically possible, or comply with an enhanced inspection regime, will result in proceedings to have the vessel removed from the Gibraltar Ship Register.

Owners and operators are also reminded that if essential items of equipment are not in the correct condition this may lead to a detention by port state control authorities. By informing this Administration in sufficient time and providing details of any such equipment, if appropriate, a letter from Flag or an exemption to allow sufficient time for repairs to be carried out can be issued. Such a letter or an exemption will often satisfy port state control officers and therefore avoid a possible detention.

Should vessels be detained in future because such a letter or exemption was not on board. This Administration will treat such incidents as a serious failing of the operators and will take appropriate measures.

Gibraltar Maritime Administration
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All notices are available through www.gibmaritime.com