

MOU News and Initiatives

Paris MOU Port State Control Committee (PSCC) Meeting

As previously mentioned, Canada participated in three PSCC meetings in 2004. At the meeting in Copenhagen in May, Paris MOU members undertook a review of the inspection regime with a focus on moving towards full coverage of ships entering the region instead of the current commitment by each member to inspect 25 per cent of vessels. Periods between inspections would depend on the risk profile of the individual ship.

Also, it was agreed that a special inspection campaign would be held on security issues regarding the ISPS Code requirements that were introduced in July 2004. In October, a Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) was conducted on crew living and working conditions. Further campaigns are planned on Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems (GMDSS) and MARPOL Annex 1 in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Tokyo MOU PSCC Meetings

The Tokyo MOU members also tackled a number of important issues during their committee meetings. In Vanuatu, the committee adopted the guidelines and checklists developed during the CIC on bulk carriers as Tokyo MOU PSC inspection instructions. On the issue of maritime security, the committee agreed on a harmonized approach for checking ISPS Code compliance and began issuing, as of April 1, 2004, letters of warning to ships for which the code applies and which are found not ready for compliance with the requirements of the code. The MOU also decided to carry out a CIC on ISPS Code compliance, simultaneously with the Paris MOU.

During the meeting, the Tokyo MOU and EQUASIS agreed to develop and implement a hyperlink between APCIS (the Tokyo MOU ship inspection database) and the EQUASIS database as a more effective means of information transfer between the two web-based electronic data collection systems. Progress on the implementation of various technical cooperation and training programs was also reported. In addition, the Black Sea MOU and the Authority of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were unanimously accepted as observers to the Tokyo MOU.

In Shanghai, the committee considered and adopted a new set of amendments to the Tokyo Memorandum, including a revised, more comprehensive qualitative criterion for membership, and approved a revised PSC Manual. Both take effect on February 1, 2005. The committee also approved the establishment of the MOU Detention Review Panel and reported on the results of the CIC on maritime security. It was decided to conduct a CIC on the control of operational requirements from September to November 2005.

Results of the Security Campaign

With the introduction of the ISPS Code on July 1, 2004, the Paris and Tokyo MOUs held a three-month campaign to verify compliance with the new security requirements for ships. The campaign ran from July 1 to September 30, 2004, and used a uniform questionnaire to test the key elements of a ship's security arrangements including:

- the International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) and inappropriate use of Interim Certificates;
- general access control including access control to sensitive areas of the ship;
- security level;
- records of ship/port interfaces, and records of security drills;
- crew familiarity with essential ship security procedures; and,
- communication among key crew members.



Garbage in front of access doors

Security checks will be ongoing. Port State Control Officers will continue to develop their knowledge and experience in this field and work closely with their security authorities to further refine their effectiveness/methodology.