

**Circular 168/ 2018**

**To:** Owners, Managers, Surveyors, Deputy Registrars and other interested parties

**Subject:** Flag State Inspections

**Date:** 26th March 2018

**Summary:**

This circular intends to clarify the importance and value of Flag State inspections.

Maritime Cook Islands (MCI) is continuously working to improve the assistance it provides to Cook Islands flagged vessels in order to ensure the maintenance of high safety standards and good port state control performance.

It is in this light that our Technical Department is regularly reviewing its FSI programme with the aim of making it as effective as possible.

An analysis of all deficiencies found on board CI flagged vessels for the period 2015 – 2017 indicates a high number of ISM related non-conformities. MCI regards ISM as the main tool to ensure a high-level of safety standards are maintained.

As a result the MCI FSI programme will include an expanded check on ISM implementation together with an enhanced focus on ISPS and MLC implementation.

MCI surveyors play a crucial role when it comes to assisting Cook Islands flagged vessels. MCI is committed to standardise the approach of surveyors during Flag State inspections. Particular emphasis has been given to handpick particularly skilled surveyors, able to provide added value to the FSI programme and to owners, managers and masters.

It is intended that the FSI programme will produce the following results:

- More detailed FSI reports able to provide a better overview of the vessels' condition;
- Maritime Cook Islands surveyors able to better assist the crew on-board and to work with them to improve the vessels' standards;
- Decrease in ISM related non-conformities found during PSC inspections.



It's likely that under the new FSI programme a higher number of deficiencies and non-conformities will be found on-board during Flag State visits. Owners, managers and masters should consider this, as an advantage, as it will permit managers and owners the opportunity to rectify issues on-board and close off non-conformities prior to Port State inspections; eventually reducing risk of detention and the associated financial and time delay costs.

MCI will to work closely with all owners and managers to assist with continuous improvement of safety standards on-board.

MCI welcomes feedback on the FSI programme and Flag State inspections, to allow continuous improvement and enhancements to procedures.

Feedback or requests for clarification or further information may be directed to the the MCI Technical Department [technical@maritimecookislands.com](mailto:technical@maritimecookislands.com)