

Maritime Cook Islands

Survey & Certification Guidelines

2026 | Survey & Certification Guidelines

MARITIME
COOK ISLANDS
The Cook Islands Ship Registry

ABOUT US



KIA ORANA,

Maritime Cook Islands provides technical services through our Regulatory, Technical and Operations Department (RTO) which is made up of a Technical Department (TD) (Merchant and Yachts) and a Marine Operation and Compliance Department (MO&C). These departments are tasked with implementing national and international statutory requirements on Cook Islands-flagged vessels.

Within our RTO, we have a team of professionals with diverse backgrounds ready to assist owners and operators with technical inquiries, addressing everything from small yachts to large tankers.

Our TD specializes in handling technical queries, while the MO&C focuses on ISM, ISPS, MLC, and oversees the PSC program. We offer timely assistance to the entire Cook Islands fleet, with staff positioned in both Europe and the Asia Pacific time zones.

Maintaining strong working relationships with all IACS Class Societies, we coordinate with a network of Cook Islands appointed Flag Surveyors. This involves providing instructions to ensure Cook Islands registered vessels efficiently comply with applicable statutory requirements.

Paolo Favilli
Head of Regulatory, Technical and Operations

WHY THE COOK ISLANDS

IN-HOUSE TECHNICAL EXPERTS
MCI has a team of highly-skilled technical experts, including naval architects, marine engineers, and auditors.

ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION & FORMS
Digital Systems include online application forms, electronic certification, and QR code technology

THE COOK ISLANDS SHIP OWNERS ASSOCIATION
The Cook Islands Ship Owners Association (CISOA) simplifies vessel registration by allowing international entities to meet ownership requirements without local incorporation. This provides a cost-effective, efficient pathway to registration while maintaining existing corporate structures

ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED
MCI's quality management system is certified to AS/NZS ISO 9001:2015 by Telarc

GLOBAL SUPPORT
MCI ensures efficient service through its global network of MCI offices and Agents delivering quality service in your language and time zone.

IMO MEMBER STATE AUDIT SCHEME
In October 2025, the Cook Islands successfully completed the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS). This audit confirms rigorous adherence to international conventions and the III Code. Our quality management ensures world-class standards across Flag, Port, and Coastal State responsibilities

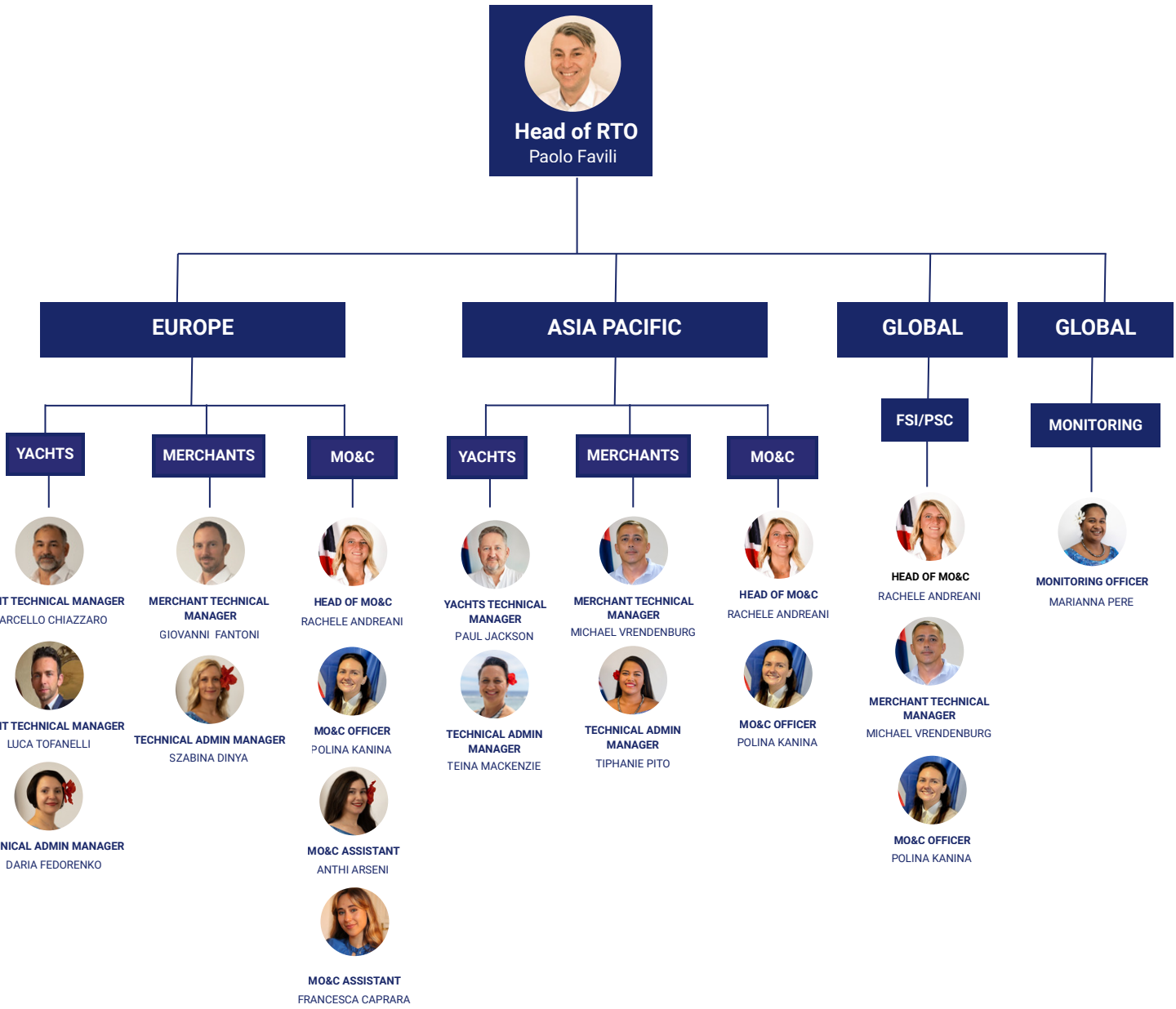
THE COOK ISLANDS GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIP
MCI maintains a strong relationship with the Cook Islands Government and stakeholders, enabling higher-level support when required.

IMO REPRESENTATION
The Cook Islands is a member state of the IMO and has a delegation of representatives at all major meetings.

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REGULATORY, TECHNICAL & OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Regulatory, Technical & Operations (RTO) Department of Maritime Cook Islands provides specialized technical services through a dual-structured approach, comprising of the Technical Department (TD) and the Marine Operation and Compliance Department (MO&C). Led by Paolo Favili, Head of RTO, these departments are responsible for implementing national and international statutory requirements across the Cook Islands fleet.



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TECHNICAL SERVICES

The RTO Department provides a range of technical services to ensure the safety, compliance, and operational efficiency of the Cook Islands fleet. Our team of naval architects, marine engineers, surveyors and auditors deliver specialized support in accordance with international standards, ranging from statutory surveys and audits to global Port State Control assistance. By leveraging a worldwide network of approved surveyors and maintaining strong relationships with IACS Classification Societies, we aim to facilitate seamless operations and regulatory adherence for shipowners in major ports globally

SURVEYS & AUDIT

Maritime Cook Islands provides statutory services (survey & certification) to all its registered vessels, either through approved Recognised Organisations (ROs) or directly through its appointed surveyors. All vessels over 500GT shall have survey & certification carried out by an IACS Recognised Organisation. The RTO Department oversees the work carried out by the RO's providing instructions and concurrence as necessary. Maritime Cook Islands can perform direct audits and issue relevant certification for ISM, ISPS, and MLC. MCI can perform directly the statutory work on vessels under 500GT.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Maritime Cook Islands has a team of technical experts comprising of Naval Architects, Marine Engineers and Auditors. These highly skilled professionals bring their expertise to ensure compliance, safety and efficiency in accordance with International standards.

WAIVERS, DISPENSATIONS, EXTENSIONS & EXEMPTIONS

RTO are responsible for the issuance of exemptions, waivers, extensions and dispensations in compliance with the applicable national & international regulations. The certifying Recognised Organisations as well as managers will be involved in the process.

PORT STATE CONTROL & FSI

RTO monitors vessel movements and tracks PSC inspection cycles for its registered vessels. Where vessels are due for PSC inspections RTO will help the vessel prepare by reaching out to managers to offer support and where appropriate scheduling a FSI prior to the PSC inspection window.
In the event of a vessel being detained, RTO will assess the detainable deficiencies and will cooperate directly with Port State Control and the vessel's Management Company to resolve deficiencies and ensure release of the vessels in a timely manner.

APPROVED SURVEYORS /AUDITORS

Maritime Cook Islands has established a global network of surveyors and auditors. This network enables MCI to effectively deliver services to shipowners in the majority of main ports worldwide, ensuring compliance with international regulations and facilitating seamless operations in various international ports.

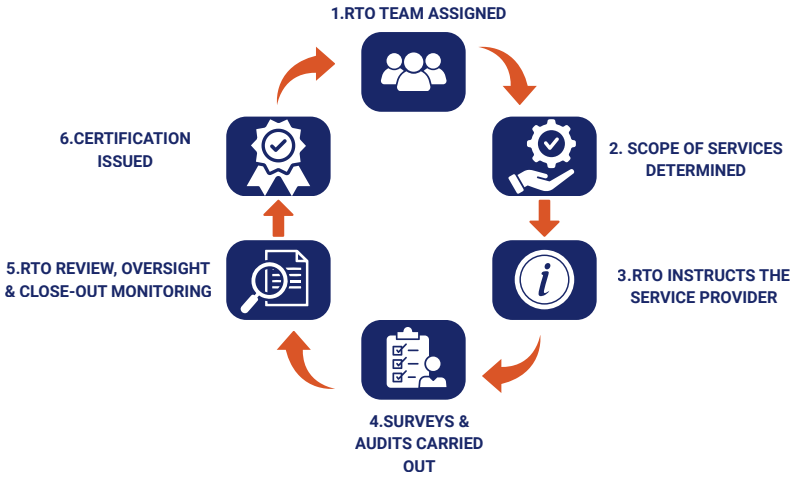
All surveyors & auditors are provided with an ID card with a QR code which enables efficient verification of their delegated authority.

CASUALTY INVESTIGATION

In the event of a casualty, managers or shipowners shall notify MCI immediately. MCI in cooperation with the MOT will appoint one or more investigators to promptly conduct an inquiry into the incident.

SURVEY & CERTIFICATION

Maritime Cook Islands provides survey and certification services either through approved Recognised Organisations or directly through its appointed surveyors to ensure that registered vessels meet safety and regulatory standards.



PROCESS EXPLAINED:

STEP 1

RTO TEAM ASSIGNED AT ONBOARDING

Upon registration, Regulatory, Technical & Operations (RTO) assigns a dedicated service and support team to the vessel and its ISM manager. This team provides continuous service delivery and compliance oversight throughout the vessel's registration with Maritime Cook Islands and liaises with:

- the vessel representative
- the Recognised Organisation (RO), where applicable
- MCI-appointed surveyors and/or auditors

Assigned roles:

- Technical Administration Manager
- Technical Manager
- Marine Operations and Compliance Officer

STEP 2

SCOPE OF SERVICES DETERMINED

The RTO team defines the service scope based on vessel tonnage (GT), type, and trading pattern.

Service Pathways

- **Under 500 GT:** Surveys and certification via Approved RO or MCI Surveyor.
- **Over 500 GT:** Surveys/Certification via Approved RO; MCI Auditors handle ISM/ISPS/MLC as authorized.

MCI Standard Services (All Vessels)

Regardless of size, MCI manages delivery of the following services directly:

- Minimum Safe Manning
- Declaration of MLC Part I
- FSI/PSC Support Program

STEP 3

RTO INSTRUCTS THE SERVICE PROVIDER (RO AND/OR MCI SURVEYOR/AUDITOR)

Once the scope of services and delivery body are confirmed, RTO issues formal instructions for the required surveys and/or audits to be completed (including scope, timing expectations, and reporting/close-out requirements).

STEP 4

SURVEYS AND AUDITS CARRIED OUT

The vessel / ISM company and the surveyor/auditor coordinate availability and logistics to complete the required survey and audit work.

STEP 5

RTO REVIEW, OVERSIGHT AND CLOSE-OUT MONITORING

RTO reviews the surveys and audits completed by the RO and/or MCI surveyor/auditor as part of quality control and flag oversight.

RTO also monitors:

- closure of deficiencies
- closure of nonconformities (NCs)
- any conditions/recommendations, as applicable

STEP 6

CERTIFICATION ISSUED

Once satisfactory review and close-out requirements are met (as applicable), certification is issued to the client to verify compliance.

CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES

Maritime Cook Islands has established formal agreements with members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). Maritime Cook Islands can leverage the expertise and resources of IACS members to enhance services and support provided to ship owners.

WORLD WIDE SURVEYORS

Maritime Cook Islands operates with a global network of Cook Islands Approved Surveyors appointed by the Registrar of Ships. They conduct surveys and inspections in compliance with international conventions and Codes. All surveyors & Auditors are provided with an ID card with a QR code which enables efficient verification of their delegated authority.

All survey requests are through the Regulatory, Technical & Operations Department. Email: technical@maritimecookislands.com



PORT STATE CONTROL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Port State Control (PSC) Program is tailored for Cook Islands registered vessels. The program aims to minimize the risk of PSC deficiencies and detentions through a systematic analysis of the PSC inspection schedule based on Paris and Tokyo MoUs procedures. Additionally, it incorporates preventative Flag State Implementation inspections for a proactive approach to compliance.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

01

RISK ASSESSMENT

MCI evaluates the risk level of each Cook Islands registered vessel, considering parameters including but not limited to inspection results and manager performance.

02

VESSEL MONITORING

MCI uses intelligence monitoring software based on AIS and LRIT data to track the positions of all registered vessels.

03

TIMELY COORDINATION

Factoring in the PSC inspection window and vessel data, MCI contacts the vessel's managers in advance to offer support and where appropriate scheduling a FSI at a convenient port.

04

FSI INSPECTION

Conducted by an approved Flag State Surveyor, the FSI inspection ensures compliance with standards and prepares the vessel for the upcoming PSC inspection.

05

FSI RESULTS & ACTIONS

After FSI inspection, managers receive a report with identified deficiencies. MCI collaborates with managers to address and rectify deficiencies, ensuring compliance with applicable standards.

06

PSC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For PSC Inspections, MCI offers technical assistance through its European and Asia Pacific offices, including liaising with local Port State Control authorities and arranging Cook Islands Approved Surveyors. This will ensure timely retification of any deficiancy.



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FLEET HIGHLIGHTS

FLEET HIGHLIGHTS AS OF MARCH 2026

THE CORE METRICS

760
TOTAL VESSELS

464,291
GROSS TONNAGE

666
YACHTS

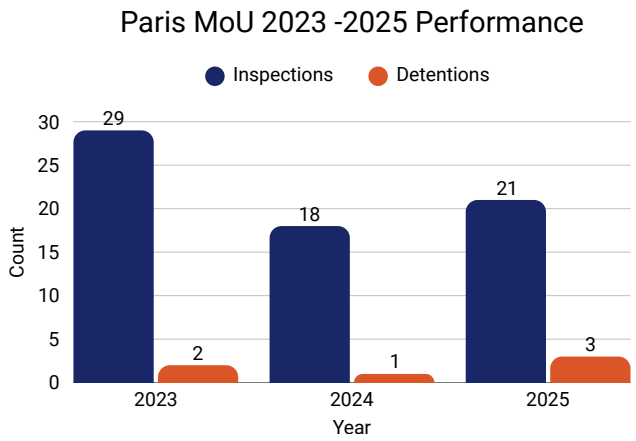
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MERCHANTS

Fleet Highlights

Vessel Category	Total Gross Tonnage	Vessel Count	Fleet %
Yachts	115,013.04	667	87.76%
Tanker	226,425.00	20	2.63%
Bulk Carrier	50,163.00	2	0.26%
Cargo	31,623.00	13	1.71%
Unmanned Barges	13,257.00	13	1.71%
Off-shore	10,137.00	12	1.58%
Fishing	6,817.00	7	0.92%
Special Purpose	5,027.50	10	1.32%
Utility	4,027.40	9	1.18%
Tug	1,066.27	3	0.39%
Passenger	498.00	1	0.13%
Traditional Vessel	235.00	3	0.39%

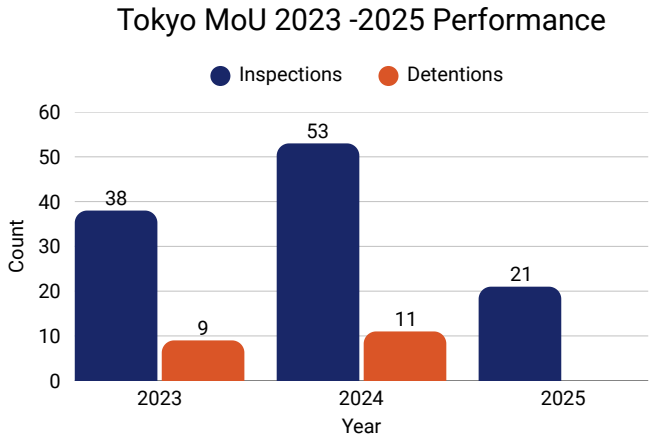
PARIS MOU PERFORMANCE

The Paris MoU performance shows a stable 3-year aggregate detention ratio of 8.82%, characterized by high compliance in 2024. While 2025 saw an increase in the number of detentions, the data suggests a foundational commitment to safety, with the overall figures remaining within a manageable range relative to the total number of inspections conducted.



TOKYO MOU PERFORMANCE

The Tokyo MoU data indicates a significant positive trend in compliance efficiency, with the annual detention ratio decreasing from 23.68% in 2023 to 9.52% in 2025. Despite a substantial increase in inspection volume during the final year, the successful reduction in the 3-year aggregate ratio to 13.29% reflects a strengthened operational focus on safety standards.



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CONTACT US



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