



**MARITIME CIRCULAR No. 31**

To:

**Ship - Owners/Operators/Managers, Registration Officers (RegOffs), Recognized Organizations (ROs)**

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Subject:

**Flag State Inspections**

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Date:

**23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2016**

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References:

**IMO Implementation Instruments – III Code**

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Maritime Circular is to outline the procedure, scope and requirements for Flag State Inspections of Sierra Leonean vessels.

### **Application**

1. The aim of Flag State Inspections (FSIs) is to enhance the safety standards of Sierra Leonean vessels and decrease the number of deficiencies that may result in the detention of the ship from Port State Control Authorities (PSCA).
2. The Flag State Inspections (FSIs) apply to all vessels registered with the Sierra Leone Flag except:
  - Vessels below fifteen (15) years of age
  - Cargo Ships below 500 gross tonnage
  - Non-propelled Barges
  - Fishing vessels navigating within Sierra Leone waters
  - Vessels navigating within the national waters of Sierra Leone
  - Laid-up vessels

The Administration reserves the right to request a FSI on the above mentioned ship categories if deemed necessary.

3. There are three types of Flag State Inspections as follows:

3.1 **Initial Flag State Inspection (IFSI):** To be conducted prior to the provisional registration of the vessel. If this is not practically feasible, it should be conducted within 3 months from the date of provisional or bareboat chartered-in registration.

- 3.2 **Annual Flag State Inspection (AFSI)**: To be conducted 12 months after the Initial Flag State Inspection and before the due date of Annual Taxes.
- 3.3 **Special Flag State Inspection (SFSI)**: To be carried out in special cases such as when the vessel has been detained by Port State Control or any other case as deemed necessary.
4. It is the responsibility of the Owners and/or Managers to present their vessels timely for inspections required in paragraph 3 above. The Owners and/or Managers must contact the Technical Department of SLMARAD by email: [technical@slmarad.com](mailto:technical@slmarad.com) and inform about the vessel's **next port of call, ETA and Agent Information**.
5. The Technical Manager will assign an authorized Flag State Inspector to carry out the required inspection.
6. Any remarks imposed by the Flag State Inspection will be clearly outlined in the reports, to be submitted to the Master of the inspected vessel. Both the Master and the Flag State Inspector must sign the inspection reports acknowledging the results.
7. In the case where the Flag State Inspector detects any remarks on board the vessel, authorization must be given by the Technical Manager to:
- 7.1 Rectify the remarks before the departure of the inspected vessel as per the recommendations of the Flag State Inspector, **OR**
- 7.2 The remarks shall be rectified at the next convenient port in conjunction with the Recognized Organization of the inspected vessel.
- The decision will be based purely on the nature and seriousness of the identified remarks.
8. Upon rectification of all remarks, the Owner(s)/Manager(s) must submit the **RRF01 "Remarks Rectification Form"** to the Technical Department of SLMARAD, duly filled and signed.
9. Only upon duly completion of the above mentioned (Flag State Inspection AND rectification of identified remarks), any Sierra Leonean vessel will be able to proceed with the permanent registration or renewal registration, as applicable.
10. The fees for the FSI irrespective of scope, are included in the Registration fees. However, it is the Owner's/Manager's responsibility to cover any additional travelling expenses of the Flag State Inspector. The travelling expenses shall be paid from the Owner(s)/Manager(s) to SLMARAD. SLMARAD shall be responsible settling the fees to their Flag State Inspectors.
11. SLMARAD has appointed sufficient number of Flag State Inspectors in order to eliminate as much as possible additional travelling expenses.
12. The above policy will enter into effect as of **23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2016**.

For additional information please contact SLMARAD Technical Manager, Marinos Ioannou at [tm@slmarad.com](mailto:tm@slmarad.com)

Revision

Initial: 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2016 – Adopted