



CIRCULAR N° REG/001

Additional procedure for registration and change of flag surveys

**TO: CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES
SHIPOWNERS & SHIPS' OPERATORS & MANAGERS
SURVEYORS TO FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION**

Monaco, 19th January 2004

All vessels applying for registration under the St. Vincent Flag should comply with the following procedure:

1.1 Vessels over 18 years (15 years for tankers) of age are not eligible for registration unless a preliminary Flag State survey by an accredited surveyor to this Administration (not a classification surveyor) is performed. This survey, however does not guarantee the registration. Additionally, the Classification Society should issue a document confirming the vessel's classification and list all applicable Conventions the vessel is in compliance with together with any known outstanding deficiencies. Other surveys should be carried out according to the instructions below which remain applicable.

1.2 Regardless of whether the Company remains the same as before or a change occurs, no vessel should be registered with any outstanding recommendation. In case a deviation from this policy is requested, it should be invariably referred to this Maritime Administration for consideration and relevant instructions.

1.3. In both cases, at the time of the change of flag, if the due dates for the surveys for existing class and statutory certificates are within the ± 3 months' window, then renewal/ intermediate/periodical/annual surveys, as the case may be, shall be carried out immediately. At the same time, an inspection of basic ILO items shall be carried out.

1.4 In the case where the change of flag is not accompanied by a change of the Company, the surveys shall be limited in scope to the extent of the applicable annual survey with the addition of basic ILO items, unless the due dates of the statutory surveys are within the window mentioned above.

1.5 In cases where the change of flag is accompanied by a change of the Company, the extent of the surveys in respect of safety equipment shall be upgraded to that of a renewal survey with the addition of basic ILO items. The surveys for the statutory certificates other than the safety equipment, unless they fall within the windows mentioned in paragraph 1.2 above, shall be carried out to the extent of annual surveys.

1.6 For vessels which have been detained by Port State Control more than twice during the year elapsed , the Classification Society is to issue, prior to the change of flag, a document confirming that the vessel is in a seaworthy condition and complies with all the provisions of the applicable international conventions. The procedure for the change of flag remains as mentioned in 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5.

Note for Classification Societies

1.7. The statutory survey reports for the change of flag surveys shall be made available the soonest possible to the Maritime Administration either in hard copy or by e-mail, or through access to the Classification Society's data base.