



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° SOL 004 – Rev. 2

INSPECTION OF THE OUTSIDE OF A PASSENGER SHIP'S BOTTOM

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

APPLICABLE TO: Passenger ships including Ro-Ro passenger ships

ENTRY INTO FORCE: Date of present Circular

Monaco, 24th February 2011

SOLAS Chapter I Regulation 7(b) (ii) requires the inspection of passenger ships' structure, including the outside of the ship's bottom.

Res. A.997(25) as amended by Res. A.1020(26) defines the inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom as *an inspection of the underwater part of the ship and related items to ensure that they are in satisfactory condition and fit for the service for which the ship is intended.*

Res. A.997 (25) as amended by Res. A.1020 (26) requires that a minimum of two of the inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom during any five-year period should be conducted in dry-dock. In all cases, the maximum interval between two dry-dock bottom inspections should not exceed thirty six (36) months.

Inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom conducted afloat should only be carried out when the conditions are satisfactory and the proper equipment and suitably qualified staff is available.

In addition Res. A.997(25) as amended by Res. A.1020 (26) states that special consideration should be given to ships of fifteen (15) years of age or over before being permitted to credit the inspection afloat.

Inspection afloat will be credited to ships of fifteen (15) years of age or over if the ships have been assigned with the additional class notation INWATERSURVEY or equivalent by the ship's Classification Society.

Inspection afloat to ships of fifteen (15) years of age or over to which the additional class notation INWATERSURVEY or equivalent has not been assigned by the ship's Classification Society may be credited subject to confirmation by ship's Classification Society that suitable arrangements to carry out the in-water survey are provided.

As stated in MSC I/Circ.1348 dated 2nd June 2010, in water survey in lieu of a bottom inspection in dry-dock to allow one dry dock examination in any five-year period for passenger ships other than ro-ro passenger ships is permitted.