

TECHNICAL SERVICE CIRCULAR

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MARITIME ACTIVITIES CONSULTANTS S.A.

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Subject: "U.S. Coast Guard Issues the USCG Port State Control (PSC) Inspections - Essential Preparation and Compliance Guides"

Summary: The U.S. Coast Guard has recently issued a PSC Guide and checklists with relevance for Owners, Managers as well as Masters onboard foreign vessels visiting US ports focusing on essential preparation and compliance proceedings for PSC in US ports.

Background

1. As prescribed by the relevant International Conventions and emphasized by the US CG, Port State Control (PSC) is the process by which a nation exercises its authority over foreign vessels in waters subject to its jurisdiction. The concrete authority originates from several sources, both domestic and international, including UNCLOS. In addition, nations that are party to certain international conventions are empowered to verify that vessels of other nations operating within their waters comply with these conventions, and to take action to bring these ships into compliance if they do not.
2. The above conventions include among others, priority IMO International Instruments like SOLAS; the International Convention on Load Lines 1966 (ICLL); the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 73/78 (MARPOL); the International Convention on Standards of Training Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW 95); and also ILO International Instruments like the International Labor Organization Convention No. 147, The Convention Concerning Minimum Standards in Merchant Ships (ILO 147).

The U.S. Coast Guard Port State Control Guidance

3. As widely known the United States exercises its PSC authority through the U.S. Coast Guard's Port State Control Program. Through the extremely detailed PSC program, the Coast Guard verifies that foreign-flagged vessels operating in U.S. waters comply with applicable international conventions, and also with U.S. laws, and U.S. regulations. When vessels that are not in substantial compliance with applicable laws or regulations are identified, the Coast Guard imposes controls until the substandard conditions have been rectified and the vessels are brought into compliance. The goal of the PSC program is to identify and eliminate substandard ships from U.S. waters.
4. Considering the above, the US CG issued in September 2022 a PSC Guide addressing Owners, Managers as well as Masters onboard foreign vessels visiting US ports focusing on essential preparation and compliance proceedings for PSC.
5. Interested parties can access more information on the PSC program through the Coast Guard's Homeport Website at <https://homeport.uscg.mil>. The [US CG Guide on PSC](#) is attached in Pdf format to this Technical Service Circular.

Service Offered by M.A.C.

6. M.A.C. S.A. closely follows various procedural requirements and publications issued by various Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for providing to its clients, managing & operating vessels

under various flags customized advice and guidance on Port State Control-related procedural issues.



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