

Enhanced Procedures for FSQC Inspection

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The main purposes of carrying FSQC inspections are and not limited to:
- i) maintain and improve the quality of HK registered ships;
 - ii) ensure HK ships comply with the relevant International Conventions requirements;
 - iii) follow up with management companies on safe management of their managed ships, if required.
 - iv) monitor the performance of our ROs and RSOs; and
 - v) avoid PSC detention.
- 1.2 Marine Department setup a Flag State Quality Control Management Information System (FSQCMIS) to benchmark the quality standard of each HK registered ship. Ships located in lower benchmark level will be highlighted and selected for FSQC inspections by HKMD surveyors at no cost to the management company or shipowners.

2. Hong Kong registered ships being detained

- 2.1 For HK ships being detained by port Administrations, it was highly recommended by the Marine Department's Organization Reform Group that FSQC inspection should be conducted on each and every detained HK registered ships. However, under the detained situation, the cost of the FSQC inspection will have to be absorbed by the management company or shipowners.
- 2.2 FSQC inspections of detained HK ships were aimed to identify the weakness of the SMS implemented on board the ship, to determine the root cause, to propose corrective and preventive measures, with a view to avoid the ship from future problems with PSC interventions.
- 2.3 The Cargo Ships Safety (CSS) Section constantly experienced problems with requesting detained ships for FSQC inspections. MD regrets to note one particular HK ship had been chased for FSQC inspection for 11 months, and just when the FSQC inspection had been arranged for the next port of arrival, the ship was detained in the US. The detainable items were again found as standard items on the pre-arrival checklist as published by MD.

3. The proposal

- 3.1 To avoid similar incident as experienced in paragraph 2.3, MD proposed to impose a three month's period for the management company or shipowner to make arrangements for MD to conduct a FSQC inspection on the detained HK ship.
- 3.2 If the management company or shipowner failed to respond to MD's request for FSQC inspection within the three month's period, MD will instruct the ship's ISM RO to replace the existing SMC with a short term certificate of three month's validity. When the short term SMC expired, the ship will not be able to trade.
- 3.3 Marine Department understand there will be exceptional circumstances a ship cannot be arranged for FSQC inspection, and is willing to consider extension on a case by case basis based on rational justifications.

**Ship Safety Branch
September 2015**