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FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 092413.GEN

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Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention of ship-owners, ship managers, operators and masters of Vanuatu-registered ships.

Re: Required Training and Drills on board Vanuatu Flagged Vessels

I. This Fleet letter applies to all vessels under the Vanuatu Flag. For further clarification please refer to SOLAS, the ISPS Code, IMO Resolution A.1050(27), MLC 2006 and Cap 131.

II. Requirements

II. This circular highlights the requirements and frequency of Vanuatu Flagged vessels for Training and Drills.

Line Throwing Appliance Training

SOLAS Chapter III, Regulation 19.4

“On-board training and instructions

4.1 On-board training in the use of the ship's life-saving appliances, including survival craft equipment, and in the use of the ship's fire-extinguishing appliances shall be given as soon as possible but not later than two weeks after a crew member joins the ship. However, if the crew member is on a regularly scheduled rotating assignment to the ship, such training shall be given not later than two weeks after the time of first joining the ship. Instructions in the use of the ship's fire-extinguishing appliances, life-saving appliances, and in survival at sea shall be given at the same interval as the drills. Individual instruction may cover different parts of the ship's life-saving and fire-extinguishing appliances, but all the ship's life-saving and fire-extinguishing appliances shall be covered within any period of two months.”

FIRE AND BOAT DRILLS:

Under Cap 131 Maritime Regulations 64 “the master of every vessel shall cause the crew to be exercised at fire and boat drill at least once every week, and such drills shall be conducted as if an actual emergency existed. All fire pumps shall be started and sufficient outlets opened in order to determine that the system is in proper working order.”

All boats are to be lowered to the water, released and exercised every 3 months weather permitting according to SOLAS Chapter III, Regulation 19.

SECURITY DRILLS

Under the ISPS Code, Part b Paragraph 13.6

To ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the ship security plan, drills

should be conducted at least once every three months. In addition, in cases where more than 25 percent of the ship's personnel has been changed, at any one time, with personnel that has not previously participated in any drill on that ship, within the last 3 months, a drill should be conducted within one week of the change.

EMERGENCY STEERING

SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 26.4

"In addition to the routine checks and tests prescribed in paragraphs 1 and 2, emergency steering drills shall take place at least once every three months in order to practice emergency steering procedures. These drills shall include direct control within the steering gear compartment, the communications procedure with the navigation bridge and, where applicable, the operation of alternative power supplies."

ENCLOSED SPACE ENTRY

IMO Resolution A.1050(27)

6.4 Only trained personnel should be assigned the duties of entering, functioning as attendants or functioning as members of rescue teams. Ships' crews with rescue and first aid duties should be drilled periodically in rescue and first aid procedures. Training should include as a minimum:

- 1 identification of the hazards likely to be faced during entry into enclosed spaces;
- 2 recognition of the signs of adverse health effects caused by exposure to hazards during entry; and
- 3 knowledge of personal protective equipment required for entry.

It is the Requirement of this Administration to conduct such training on a monthly basis.

GALLEY INSPECTIONS

MLC 2006, TITLE 3

In accordance with the ongoing compliance procedures under Title 5, the competent authority shall require that frequent documented inspections be carried out on board ships, by or under the authority of the master, with respect to:

- (a) supplies of food and drinking water;
- (b) all spaces and equipment used for the storage and handling of food and drinking water; and
- (c) galley and other equipment for the preparation and service of meals



Patrick Michael DeCharles II
by the direction of the
Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs
The Republic of Vanuatu

