

Subject :

Good Preparation For Surveys &
Enhanced Maintenance On Board Ships

NKTECHNICAL INFORMATION

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To Shipowners concerned

As you well know, Port State Control (PSC) Inspections are getting severe all over the world for purpose of elimination of substandard ships.

The Society has instructed all its surveyors to carry out surveys more carefully and give shipmasters proper advice to prevent unnecessary detention. However, shipowner's understanding of the current situation of PSC and good co-operation with the Society are indispensable for elimination of substandard ships and minimizing detained ships. You are kindly requested to pay special attention to the below mentioned matters and take proper action.

1. Good Preparation for the Surveys

Quite a few cases are reported recently where surveyors have experienced big difficulties to carry out surveys in accordance with the requirements of the Society's Rules and International Conventions due to the following reasons, especially at surveys in afloat condition.

- (1) Insufficient survey time due to no or poor preparation for the surveys,
- (2) Poor cooperation with the surveys by the ship's officers who are busy over deck work such as cargo handling,
- (3) Inaccessibility to survey spots due to some obstructives such as deck cargoes or deck work such as cargo handling.

You are kindly requested to apply for a survey at proper time and port to avoid the above cases, and to instruct the shipmaster to make a good preparation for the surveys and cooperate by all means with our surveyors.

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Please refer to Part B, Chapter 1, 1.1.9 "Suspension of Surveys" of the Rules which reads 'Surveys may be suspended where necessary preparations as specified in 1.1.7 have not been made, any appropriate attendant in accordance with 1.1.8 is not present, or the Surveyor considers that the safety for execution of the survey is not ensured.' and note that there may be a case where a survey is suspended due to improper or no preparations for the surveys.

2. Enhanced Maintenance

Once a ship is detained due to certain deficiencies under PSC inspection, it is required to rectify them prior to the departure. This brings the shipowner the great loss of unexpected repair cost and delayed schedule. The information of her detention is recorded in a computer data base system to which all the Port Authorities concerned can access. The information is also analyzed statistically in order to determine the target ships' manager or flag state or the classification society for port state control. Thus, you shall realize it, a detained ship becomes not only a target at all the ports in the world but also impairs smooth operation of other ships.

In order to prevent your ships from detention by the port state control, the routine maintenance is very important, because, according to our records, most of deficiencies pointed out in PSC are those caused by poor maintenance by ship's hand and in some cases by no compliance with the drill requirements of SOLAS convention. We would like to draw your attention that it is really important to enhance the routine maintenance and to duly carry out weekly inspections, monthly inspections as well as abandon ship drills and fire drills without fail in accordance with the Regulations 18 & 19 of Chapter III to SOLAS.

Furthermore, please note that checking the general conditions of the ship prior to entering a port is effective to avoid unexpected detention. We hope that the check list "Good Maintenance on Board Ships" which was distributed among all the NK Class ships would be useful for this checking.

The End