



COMDTPUB P16700.4
NVIC 01-13, CH-2
9 MAY 2025

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13, CH-2

Subj: CH-2 TO INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF VESSELS UNDER THE
MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM (MSP), NVIC 01-13, COMDTPUB 16700.4

Ref: (a) Inspection and Certification of Vessels under the Maritime Security Program (MSP),
NVIC 01-13, COMDTPUB P16700.4

1. PURPOSE. This Notice publishes change two to Reference (a).
2. ACTION. Vessel owners and operators, or their representatives, are encouraged to take advantage of the procedures and guidelines detailed in this Circular, as amended. Area Commanders, District Commanders, Sector Commanders, Commanding Officer Marine Safety Center, and Officers in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMIs) are encouraged to apprise industry representatives of this Circular, as amended, and apply its provisions appropriately. This Circular will be distributed by electronic means only and is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/default.asp>.
3. PUBLICATIONS AFFECTED.
 - a. CH-1 to Inspection and Certification of Vessels under the Maritime Security Program (MSP), NVIC 01-13, COMDTPUB P16700.4 is changed in accordance with this Notice.
 - b. This NVIC supersedes the reflag guidance contained in Coast Guard Certification and Inspection of Certain Categories or Existing Vessels, NVIC 10-81 (series).
4. DISCUSSION. This Notice changes the guidance found in Reference (a) concerning the inspection and certification of vessels under the Maritime Security Program (MSP). In addition to making non-technical corrections to portions of the NVIC, this change clarifies the enrollment process, streamlines plan review, and further explains the eligibility for foreign-built vessels to be inspected and certificated in accordance with this guidance. Specifically, this update clarifies that while some commercial vessels enrolled in MSP may receive a payment as part of their enrollment, it is not a precondition for certification. Accordingly, other foreign-built vessels may enroll in voluntary sealift support programs established by MARAD and utilize this guidance to obtain a Certificate of Inspection provided they meet the enrollment criteria as specified by MARAD, regardless of age. This update further clarifies standards for vessels reflagging for entry into the Ready Reserve Force (RRF). In accordance with 46 USC 57100(c)(1), RRF vessels are required to meet safety standards that apply to vessels that are not public. This NVIC provides guidance for

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13, CH-2

inspection and oversight standards for foreign-built RRF vessels in accordance with the authorities established in 46 USC 3306 and ensures those standards align with other non-public U.S.-flag vessels. For the purposes of this guidance, participants that meet the enrollment criteria will be referred to generally as “MSP vessels” regardless of the sealift support program for which MARAD has determined the vessel is eligible. The final Notice of Availability are part of docket USCG-2011-1156. Change-2 to NVIC 01-13 is effective as of the date of publication.

5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a regulation. It is not intended to, nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard’s current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other Federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach for complying with these requirements if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach you may contact Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance (CG-CVC).
6. MAJOR CHANGES. Enclosures 1 – 4 have been revised to clarify the enrollment process, streamline plan review, and expand program eligibility to facilitate the transition to U.S.-flag. Additional administrative updates have been made throughout. All changes are underlined in the final version and each changed page is annotated with CH-2 in the footer.
7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. The development of this NVIC and the general policies contained within it have been thoroughly reviewed under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01, Revision 01 and Environment Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series) by the originating office and are categorically excluded from further analysis under Categorical Exclusion A3 in the DHS Directive. This NVIC will not have any of the following: significant cumulative impacts on the human environment; substantial controversy or substantial change to existing environmental conditions; or inconsistencies with any federal, state, or local laws or administrative determinations relating to the environment. All future specific actions resulting from the general policy in this NVIC must be individually evaluated for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Department of Homeland Security, and Coast Guard NEPA policy and compliance with all other applicable environmental mandates.
8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Change Notice. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites. Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/directives/>.

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13, CH-2

9. PROCEDURE. Remove and insert the following:

REMOVE

Insert

Remove NVIC 01-13

Insert NVIC 01-13 CH-2

Remove enclosure (1)

Insert enclosure (1) CH-2

Remove enclosure (2) CH-1

Insert enclosure (2) CH-2

Remove enclosure (3) CH-1

Insert enclosure (3) CH-2

Remove enclosure (4) CH-1

Insert enclosure (4) CH-2

10. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This NVIC has been thoroughly reviewed during the publication clearance process, and it has been determined there are no further record scheduling requirements, in accordance with the Federal Records Act (44 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq.), National Archives and Records Administration requirements, and the Records & Information Management Roles and Responsibilities, COMDTINST 5212.12 (series). This NVIC does not create significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.

11. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

12. QUESTIONS. Questions regarding implementation of this NVIC should be directed to the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance (CG-CVC) at CGCVC@uscg.mil.



W. R. ARGUIN

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13, CH-1

operate with minimally attended or periodically unattended machinery spaces, which do not otherwise meet the requirements of 46 CFR 62.50-20 and/or 62.50-30 (as appropriate). The Coast Guard published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the draft changes to NVIC 01-13 and requested public comments (79 FR 35177, June 19, 2014). The final Notice of Availability, including comments and material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned as being available in the docket, are part of docket USCG-2011-1156. Change-1 to NVIC 01-13 is effective as of the date of publication. The owner/operator may request an amended Certificate of Inspection to align with Change-1 to NVIC 01-13 at the next scheduled Coast Guard attendance.

5. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard's current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other Federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach for complying with these requirements if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach you may contact Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Domestic Vessels (CG-CVC-1) using the contact information provided above.
6. MAJOR CHANGES. Enclosure 2 has been updated to clarify the engine automation approval process, including interim provisions for those vessels seeking to operate with minimally attended or periodically unattended machinery spaces (MAMS/PUMS). All changes are underlined in the final version and each changed page is annotated with CH-1 in the footer. For a summary of all of the changes, as well as to view any associated documents, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, using "USCG-2011-1156" as the search term. Available for viewing in the public docket is a public comment matrix that provides a summary of each specific comment and the corresponding Coast Guard response; the comment matrix also lists and explains changes made by the Coast Guard but not prompted by public comments.
7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. After careful review of the program and its environmental impacts, the U.S. Coast Guard has determined that this guidance document is excluded from further analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act by categorical exclusion 33 of Table 2-1, COMDTINST 16475.1 (series) as it implements, without substantive change, the applicable Commandant Instructions or other federal agency regulations, procedures, manuals, and other guidance documents. None of the exceptions listed in Chapter 2 B 2 (b) of COMDTINST 16475.1 (series) apply.
8. DISTRIBUTION. No paper distribution will be made of this Change Notice. An electronic version will be located on the following Commandant (CG-612) web sites. Internet: <http://www.uscg.mil/directives/>, and CGPortal: <https://cgportal2.uscg.mil/library/directives/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13, CH-1

9. PROCEDURE. Remove and insert the following:

REMOVE

Insert

Remove pages 2-6 of the NVIC

Insert pages 2-6 CH-1

Remove enclosure (2)

Insert enclosure (2) CH-1

Remove enclosure (3)

Insert enclosure (3) CH-1

Remove enclosure (4)

Insert enclosure (4) CH-1

10. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Circular has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., NARA requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not create significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.

11. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

12. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. Units and individuals may recommend changes via the chain of command to: CGCVC@uscg.mil.

P. F. THOMAS /s/
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy

COMDTPUB P16700.4
NVIC 01-13
12 FEB 2013

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13

Subj: INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF VESSELS UNDER THE MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM (MSP)

1. PURPOSE.

- a. The purpose of this Circular is to provide the marine industry and U.S. Coast Guard personnel with uniform guidance regarding the MSP, which is administered by the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD).
- b. This guidance applies to the following categories of existing vessels:
 - (1) Foreign flag vessels eligible for a Certificate of Inspection (COI) issued by the Coast Guard under the provisions of Title 46 U.S. Code 53102, or a voluntary sealift support program. For the purposes of this NVIC, the term MSP includes other voluntary sealift support programs administered by MARAD.
 - (2) Certificated U.S. vessels that obtained an initial COI under the provisions of MSP remain enrolled in MSP.

2. ACTION.

- a. Vessel owners and operators, or their representatives, are encouraged to take advantage of the procedures and guidelines detailed in this Circular. Area Commanders, District Commanders, Sector Commanders, Commanding Officer Marine Safety Center, and Officers in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMIs) are encouraged to apprise industry representatives of this Circular and apply its provisions appropriately. This Circular will be distributed by electronic means only and is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/default.asp>.

DISTRIBUTION – SDL No. 161

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
A																										
B		X	X		X									X												
C					X								X	X											X	
D											X	X						X								
E					X		X							X	X			X								
F										X																
G																										
H					X																					

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13

- b. Enclosures (1) through (4) provide guidance to assist vessel owners/operators, Authorized Classification Societies, and U.S. Coast Guard personnel in executing the MSP program. Enclosure (1), Maritime Security Program Fundamentals, discusses the background of MSP and includes a description of eligibility requirements and the application process. Enclosure (2), Guidance for Initial Certification of MSP Vessels (MSP Reflag) contains the submittal procedure for plans and documents prior to the initiation of the reflagging process, and outlines expectations for the initial inspection. Enclosure (3), Guidance for Inspection of MSP Vessels Subsequent to Initial Certification, provides procedures for all vessels enrolled in MSP. Enclosure (4), Guidance for the MSP Select Program, provides procedures for enrollment, participation and continuing inspection of vessels in the new “MSP Select” program.
- c. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Domestic Vessels (CG-CVC), using the contact information provided in the above letterhead.

3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.

- a. G-PCV Policy Letter 06-06, Guidelines for Ships Reflagged Under the Maritime Security Program Participating in the Underwater Survey in Lieu of Drydocking Program is cancelled and replaced by the guidance in this NVIC.
- b. This NVIC supersedes the guidance contained in the following:
 - (1) Message R 061413A MAR 08, Servicing of Non-Coast Guard Approved Liferrafts on Maritime Security Program Vessels.
 - (2) Pages B1-11 thru B1-19 of the Marine Safety Manual, Volume II, Materiel Inspection, COMDTINST M16000.7 (series).

4. BACKGROUND. The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996, Section 1137 (later Title 46 U.S.C. 53102 (e) and hereafter referred to in this circular as “MSP law”), established standards for issuance of a COI to a foreign flag vessel transitioning to U.S. flag once eligibility for MSP has been established by MARAD and the U.S. Coast Guard. The parent legislation for MSP provided that a limited number of vessels would receive payment from the U.S. Government for their participation in MSP. This served as a means for establishing a fleet of commercially viable and militarily useful vessels to meet national defense and other security requirements as well as to maintain a U.S. presence in international commercial shipping. However, to promote further participation in this national defense program, the U.S. Coast Guard conducted a thorough review of its regulations—specifically the eligibility requirements for several sealift programs. It found that the underlying statutory authority for age waivers contemplated foremost national security interests. Accordingly, the U.S. Coast Guard and MARAD have agreed that receipt of the payment is not a precondition for requesting a COI, provided the vessel meets the enrollment criteria as specified by MARAD, and the owner/operator demonstrates an intent to enroll in a voluntary sealift support program to the satisfaction of MARAD.

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13

5. DISCUSSION. Enclosures (1) through (4) contain guidance outlining the process for foreign flag vessels to obtain initial and continuing certification under the provisions of MSP.
 - a. Communication. Timely communication is key to any successful initial vessel certification process. Vessel owners/operators should provide detailed and accurate information to the U.S. Coast Guard and the recognized, Authorized Classification Society (ACS) (defined in 46 CFR 8.100) as early as possible. In many cases, the certification of existing vessels is undertaken with a delivery deadline already established for the operation of the vessel under U.S. flag. Although the U.S. Coast Guard makes every attempt to accommodate scheduling constraints when made aware of these deadlines, this does not obviate the need to complete the necessary plan review, confirm construction details, verify materials, establish equipment standards, and complete associated inspections. In the case of MSP, the initial inspection process cannot be undertaken by the U.S. Coast Guard until formal notice is provided by MARAD that the vessel has been determined eligible for MSP. MARAD may provide advance notice to the U.S. Coast Guard that a vessel under consideration for MSP will likely be found eligible based on a preliminary review prior to formal approval. In such cases, MARAD may recommend that the U.S. Coast Guard commence discussion and plan review to prepare for inspection and certification.

Although not required, owners/operators may also request meetings with the U.S. Coast Guard to review specific issues of concern prior to certification. Such meeting requests should first be directed to the Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Center (MSC) and later, if necessary, to the cognizant OCMI in whose zone the inspection for certification will take place.

- b. Recognized Classification Societies. MSP law requires that vessels reflagged under MSP be “classed by and designed in accordance with the rules of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), or another classification society accepted by the Secretary.” To fully leverage capabilities similar to the Alternate Compliance Program (ACP), recognized classification societies meeting the authorization criteria of 46 CFR Section 8.420(c)(1) are eligible to participate in the MSP. A recognized classification society fully authorized under 46 CFR 8.420 is eligible to participate in MSP Select. A detailed description of the classification society recognition process is provided in 46 CFR Part 8. A list of classification societies that are recognized (accepted) and their authorizations are listed on the following web page: [Classification Society Authorization](#).

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13

When a vessel becomes U.S. flagged, the U.S. Coast Guard will only allow issuance of a statutory certificate on behalf of the United States from a classification society which is recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard and has a specific authorization for the issuance of that certificate. If the vessel for which application is being made is not already classed by a recognized classification society, a transfer of class will be required in association with the MSP reflagging in order to comply with the MSP law.

- c. A Performance Based Approach. MSP law does not specify the scope or manner of the inspections to be carried out by the U.S. Coast Guard to verify that MSP vessels fulfill requirements necessary to receive and maintain a COI. Since the inception of MSP, regulatory oversight has been a combination of U.S. Coast Guard inspections together with the results of the surveys conducted by ACSs. While this methodology is employed more formally in ACP, the U.S. Coast Guard has determined that sufficient authority exists within MSP law to rely upon, in certain cases, the reports and surveys of the ACS to verify continued compliance with the requirements for issuance of a COI. To verify continued compliance with the requirements for issuing and maintaining a COI, the U.S. Coast Guard is adopting a performance-based approach for regulatory oversight.

This NVIC formally establishes two levels of MSP inspection and oversight: MSP (regular) and “MSP Select.” The former mirrors traditional U.S. Coast Guard inspection and the latter is similar to ACP. In order to replicate this ACP-like inspection enrollment process for MSP Select, a performance verification period is necessary to evaluate substantial compliance with the rules and regulations prior to MSP Select enrollment. Vessels may be enrolled in MSP Select after demonstrating satisfactory performance and substantial compliance with applicable rules and regulations for a period of at least three years inclusive of the first under keel survey (drydock or UWILD) subsequent to being reflagged under MSP. Additional information on MSP-Select can be found in Enclosure (4) of this NVIC.

This two-level approach affords the U.S. Coast Guard the ability to apply more oversight to newly reflagged vessels and allows reduced oversight for vessels with an established history of satisfactory performance. Therefore, newly enrolled MSP vessels will continue to be inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard, consistent with traditional Coast Guard inspection schedules, to verify compliance with the international conventions, recognized classification society rules, and any applicable U.S. regulations (See Enclosure (3)). After the three-year period of evaluation, MSP vessels will be eligible to seek enrollment as a “MSP Select” vessel. Owners/operators wishing to enroll existing MSP vessels, which already meet the enrollment criteria at the time of NVIC publication, in MSP Select should apply in accordance with the provisions discussed in Enclosure (4).

MSP Select vessel oversight will consist of risk-based vessel examinations, COI renewal and annual examinations, and evaluations of ACS survey activities, with a scope comparable to ACP examinations. U.S. Coast Guard oversight will consist of attendance at annual examinations and may include attendance at drydockings, underwater surveys

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13

instead of alternate drydock examinations (UWILD), and ISM Code Safety Management System audits. This approach allows the Coast Guard the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of ACSs in carrying out their duties as an alternative to that of traditional U.S. Coast Guard inspections. U.S. Coast Guard oversight activities are necessary to identify and correct MSP policy discrepancies while minimizing duplication of effort and avoiding interruption of vessel schedules.

- d. Alignment with Class Surveys. To promote consistency, the oversight protocol for the MSP Select Program will be much like ACP (See Enclosure (4)). Because MSP vessels can retain foreign approved systems and equipment under MSP law, there are no supplements associated with MSP to address the alignment of surveys and testing of equipment to meet the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. Therefore, while an ACP supplement is not used, to the maximum extent possible for MSP Select vessels, the procedures of the ACS may be used as the basis for inspection or survey, unless an alternative U.S. Coast Guard interpretation is prescribed. However, nothing limits the authority of the U.S. Coast Guard to define the method of testing for any equipment or system, or the scope and duration of any inspection needed, to verify compliance with the standards contained in MSP law.

For MSP Select vessels, the U.S. Coast Guard will align its examination and oversight activities with the class society survey schedule whenever possible. The U.S. Coast Guard will strive to avoid duplication of effort with classification societies but must also be afforded reasonable opportunity to send a U.S. Coast Guard marine inspector (MI) to any survey. To do this effectively, the owners/operators must provide the U.S. Coast Guard with sufficient advance notice of survey activities. A minimum of fourteen days advance notice for drydocking and other non-emergency surveys is appropriate for MSP Select vessels. If the survey will be conducted in a remote location, or a location outside of U.S., the cognizant OCMI requires a minimum 30-day advance notice to schedule the attendance of an inspector. Failure to provide adequate notice may result in the U.S. Coast Guard attending at a different time/location independent of the ACS. Additionally, the U.S. Coast Guard reserves the right to attend any survey for oversight and may conduct independent oversight as needed.

- e. Appeals. Persons aggrieved by a decision of the U.S. Coast Guard may appeal in accordance with the procedures contained in Title 46 CFR 1.03. The U.S. Coast Guard will notify the appellant of its decisions. Decisions may be applied as U.S. Coast Guard policy. Reference Section 1.14 of Enclosure (4) for the appeal procedures under MSP Select.
6. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is not intended to nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard's current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other Federal and state regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach for complying with these requirements if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. If you want to discuss an alternative approach you

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 01-13

may contact Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Domestic Vessels (CG-CVC-1) using the contact information provided above.

7. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. This Circular has been thoroughly reviewed during the directives clearance process, and it has been determined there are further records scheduling requirements, in accordance with Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. 3101 et seq., NARA requirements, and Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDTINST M5212.12 (series). This policy does not create significant or substantial change to existing records management requirements.
8. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. After careful review of the program and its environmental impacts, the U.S. Coast Guard has determined that this guidance document is excluded from further analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act by categorical exclusion 33 of Table 2-1, COMDTINST 16475.1 (series) as it implements, without substantive change, the applicable Commandant Instructions or other federal agency regulations, procedures, manuals, and other guidance documents. None of the exceptions listed in Chapter 2 B 2 (b) of COMDTINST 16475.1 (series) apply.
9. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

J. A. SERVIDIO /s/
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy

Enclosure: (1) Maritime Security Program (MSP) Fundamentals
(2) Guidance for Initial Certification of MSP Vessels (MSP Reflag)
(3) Guidance for Inspection of MSP Vessels Subsequent to Initial Certification
(4) Guidance for the MSP Select Program

MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM (MSP) FUNDAMENTALS

1.1. BACKGROUND

Title VI of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 was amended by passage of the Maritime Security Act of 1996, which authorized the establishment of a Maritime Security Fleet under the Maritime Security Program (MSP). This Act was later amended by legislation contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2004, Section 3531 of Public Law 108-136; the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020, Section 3521 of Public Law 116-92; and the National Defense Authorization Act for 2021, Section 3511 of Public Law 116-283. For the purpose of this NVIC, the current applicable laws are contained in Title 46 United States Code (USC) Chapters 531, 532, and 534. The U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) Office of Sealift Support is the lead governmental office for general matters related to the administration of MSP. MARAD in coordination with the Department of Defense established a program whereby certain categories of militarily useful U.S. commercial vessels may be designated for emergency service to carry military cargo in time of war, national emergency or military contingency. Vessels enrolled in MSP may receive a payment as part of their enrollment; however, other vessels may enroll in voluntary sealift support programs established by MARAD and utilize the process outlined in this guidance to obtain a U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection (COI) provided they meet the enrollment criteria as specified by MARAD. MARAD in consultation with the Department of Defense (DOD) determines if individual vessels have military utility for the purpose of MSP eligibility. Additionally, vessels reflagging for entry into the Ready Reserve Force (RRF) may utilize this guidance for the purposes of inspection and certification. Participants that meet the enrollment criteria will be referred to generally as “MSP vessels” regardless of status in the Maritime Security Fleet, Cable Security Fleet, Tanker Security Fleet, RRF, or other voluntary sealift support program.

1.2. ELIGIBILITY

Use of the procedures in this NVIC for initial reflag and certification of an existing foreign flag, foreign-built, vessel is contingent upon being found eligible for MSP by MARAD's Office of Sealift Support. The process for MSP application to MARAD is noted in the paragraphs below. MSP vessels provide sealift ship capacity that supplements government owned vessels and/or vessels contracted to the Military Sealift Command, MARAD, or other government agencies. MSP vessels, which subsequent to initial certification are determined by MARAD to no longer be payment eligible, but remain U.S.-flag, may be eligible to retain U.S. Coast Guard certification using the MSP guidance in Enclosures (3) and (4). Except for the RRF, MSP vessels are not and will not become, even upon activation for use in military sealift support operation, public vessels as defined by 46 USC 2101 (24). RRF vessels are considered public vessels of the United States in accordance with 46 USC 57100. MSP vessels must be U.S. documented vessels, subject to inspection and certification by the U.S. Coast Guard, and compliant with all applicable international conventions. To receive payment, foreign vessels

reflagged to enter MSP may not be more than 15 years old at the time of acceptance by MARAD; tankers may not be more than 10 years old, unless waived under U.S. law.

NOTE 1: Foreign flagged vessels seeking to transition to the U.S.-flag, which do not participate in a voluntary sealift support program, may utilize Enclosure (2) of this guidance provided that 1) the reflag inspection is carried out in conjunction with an ACP handover survey and 2) any gaps to the U.S. ACP Supplement are identified and mitigations or equivalencies have been approved. Section 3.6.1 does not apply, the applicable ACP guidance should be referenced for COI formatting. The applicability of this guidance to other reflags will be considered by CG-CVC on a case-by-case basis; this includes foreign-built non-RRF vessels reflagging under the National Defense Reserve Fleet, provided they meet the criteria specified herein.

NOTE 2: Vessels enrolled in a sealift support program that, following initial certification, MARAD determines no longer to be enrolled those programs for any reason, but remain under U.S. registry, will no longer be able to retain U.S. Coast Guard certification using sealift support program standards. These vessels may retain certification by enrolling in the ACP and seek continued certification under ACP.

1.3. FOREIGN VESSEL REFLAG

MSP law requires that eligible foreign flag vessels become U.S. flag in order to participate in MSP. To streamline reflagging and initial certification by the U.S. Coast Guard, MSP law allows eligible foreign built vessels to receive an initial Certificate of Inspection from the U.S. Coast Guard if they comply with the rules of a classification society recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard, and also the applicable international conventions as interpreted by their previous flag administration. Unlike ACP, there are no U.S. specific supplemental requirements applied to MSP reflags. By agreement between the U.S. Coast Guard and MARAD, foreign tankers involved in the MSP reflag process must also provide proof that they have a valid foreign tank ship Certificate of Compliance (COC), Form CG-3583, from the U.S. Coast Guard (or can satisfactorily complete a COC examination as part of the reflagging). MSP tankers must therefore comply with all requirements that would be imposed on a foreign tanker calling on a U.S. Port.

1.4. EXISTING U.S. FLAG VESSELS ENROLLING IN MSP

Vessels that are currently certificated under U.S. flag at the time of their enrollment in MSP will continue to be certificated in accordance with the requirements of the applicable U.S. regulations for which they were certificated even after enrollment in MSP. However, an owner/operator may request to apply this guidance to an existing foreign-built U.S.-flag vessel by applying to CG-CVC.

1.5. INITIAL CONTACT AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Owners/operators of militarily useful vessels who desire to reflag under MSP should contact the Office of Sealift Support (MAR-630), U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, West Building 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590, to request enrollment in MSP or a voluntary sealift support program such as the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) or Voluntary Tanker Agreement (VTA) that MARAD and the U.S. Coast Guard have determined as being equivalent to MSP for the purpose of making the vessel available for emergency sealift service. MARAD will work with the Department of Defense to determine if the vessel requesting enrollment meets the design and operational requirements for participation in a sealift support program.

If MARAD determines that the vessel meets the basic criteria for enrollment, they will notify the U.S. Coast Guard, Commandant (CG-CVC) of the name, official number, owner/operator, type of vessel and any other relevant information for a foreign flag vessel being considered for selection. The U.S. Coast Guard will then conduct a review of the vessel's safety and environmental compliance history and provide MARAD with a positive or negative enrollment recommendation.

The U.S. Coast Guard generally will not recommend any vessel whose classification society or flag administration has inadequately enforced class rules or international regulations. However, vessels currently registered with a flag administration or classification society targeted by the U.S. Coast Guard under the Port State Control (PSC) Program for having a substandard compliance record are still considered eligible for MSP provided the vessel itself does not have a history of noncompliance. A list of targeted flags and classification societies under the PSC program can be found at [Port State Control](#).

After receipt of the U.S. Coast Guard recommendation and DOD determination of military utility, MARAD will notify the vessel owner/operator if the vessel may participate in the program. If during the initial inspection, the vessel is found in substandard condition (i.e., it has excessive or significant deficiencies) the U.S. Coast Guard may withdraw its original MSP enrollment recommendation in accordance with Section 3.1.5 of Enclosure (2).

1.6. APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION

Once the conditions of Section 1.5 have been satisfied, the vessel owner/operator will be advised to make an Application for Inspection, Form CG-3752, to the OCM I in whose zone the reflag inspection will be conducted, copying the Traveling Inspector Staff (CG-5P-TI).

If the location of the inspection has not been determined by the owner/operator at the time of MARAD's acceptance into the program, in order to initiate document submittals

to the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Center (MSC), the owner/operator may make application to CG-CVC and CG-5P-TI. CG-5P-TI will facilitate pre-reflag activities until an OCMI is identified. The MSC and the OCMI shall not commence any plan review or inspection until the vessel is formally accepted into MSP by MARAD, or MARAD has indicated that the application is in process and that enrollment is recommended (either are preferred in writing). To provide the OCMI ample time to prepare for inspections, the owner/operator should notify CG-CVC and CG-5P-TI of a location for inspection at least 30 days before inspections are scheduled to commence.

1.7. STANDARDS FOR REFLAG UNDER MSP

The U.S. Coast Guard may accept previously conducted classification society surveys and previously issued international certificates as evidence of compliance with class rules and international regulations for vessel equipment and systems, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The vessel is classed by and designed in accordance with the rules of a classification society recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard;
2. The vessel complies with applicable international agreements and associated guidelines, as determined by the country in which the vessel was documented, immediately before becoming a U.S. documented vessel;
3. The country under which the vessel is currently flagged has not been identified by the U.S. Coast Guard as inadequately enforcing international vessel regulations (see Section 1.5 of this Enclosure and Section 3.1.5 of Enclosure (2) for more information);
4. The classification society under which the vessel is classed has not been identified by the U.S. Coast Guard as inadequately enforcing international vessel regulations (see Section 1.5 of this Enclosure and Section 3.1.5 of Enclosure (2) for more information); and,
5. The condition of the vessel and its equipment have been maintained to conform with the provisions of the relevant requirements.

Questions concerning eligibility for MSP enrollment should be directed to CG-CVC.

GUIDANCE FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION OF MSP VESSELS (MSP REFLAG)

After the vessel has been accepted by MARAD and has submitted an application for inspection, the U.S. Coast Guard will verify compliance with MSP law. This Enclosure provides process guidelines for issuance of an initial COI and international certificates for a foreign flag vessel entering MSP or a voluntary sealift support program such as VISA or VTA.

1.1. PLAN REVIEW AND VERIFICATION OF STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

To verify compliance with international conventions and the rules of a U.S. Coast Guard Authorized Classification Society (ACS), the vessel owner/operator should submit the following items to the cognizant OCMI, CG-5P-TI and/or U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Center (MSC) as specified in this Enclosure. The ACS shall be the primary entity responsible for verification that vessel plans meet required standards. As noted previously, the MSC and the OCMI should not commence review oversight or inspection work until the vessel is accepted into MSP by MARAD, or MARAD has indicated that the application is in process and that enrollment is recommended (either are preferred in writing). Procedures outlined in section 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.5 below should be followed where any inconsistency between submitted plans and international standards or ACS rules are identified.

1.1.1. AUTHORIZED CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY REQUIRED

Where the vessel has been classed and designed in accordance with rules other than a U.S. Coast Guard ACS (46 CFR 8.100), the vessel must be transferred to the class of a U.S. Coast Guard ACS and accepted as being in class under the rules of that organization prior to reflagging (46 USC 53102(e)(1)(A), 53202(d)(1)(A), and 53402(e)(1)(A)).

1.1.2. IDENTIFICATION OF ALL EQUIVALENCIES OR EXEMPTIONS

The vessel owner/operator, previous flag administration, and/or classification society should identify to the OCMI and MSC all areas and items where equivalence or exemptions have been previously granted to any applicable international convention or to the design rules of a classification society recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard.

1.1.3. PLANS AND INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED

The following plans and information should be submitted to the OCMI, CG-5P-TI, and MSC along with the identification of all equivalencies and exemptions.

1. Plans pertaining to existing structures or systems that are being modified at the time of reflag or which have not been reviewed by the previous flag administration.
2. Plans pertaining to new systems that are being added or installed.
3. Any plans requested by the U.S. Coast Guard related to questions or concerns on a specific system.
4. Plans and supporting documentation applicable to an equivalency determination or exemption.
5. Vessel Security Plan (VSP) (including SSAS & Piracy Annexes)

The following plans and information should be submitted to the MSC (copying the OCMI and CG-5P-TI) along with the identification of all associated equivalencies and exemptions.

6. Letter from the flag administration or ACS identifying the current approved version of the following;
 - A. General arrangement and capacity plans.
 - B. Fire control and smoke detection system plans.
 - C. Bilge and ballast piping diagram(s).
 - D. Stability test report including stability test data and lightship properties.
 - E. Particulars of damage stability compliance, including criteria used and summary of results of survival calculations, probability factor calculations, drafts used.
 - F. Damage control plan.
 - G. Approved cargo loading manual (cargo securing manual), if not included with Trim and Stability Booklet.
 - H. Midship section and hull girder section modulus calculation.
7. In addition to the items listed in Section 1.1.3.6 of this Enclosure, the letter should include the following and provide additional detail as specified below;
 - A. Structural fire protection division rating plans. Any areas of Method I construction should be clearly identified. The MSC will oversight any associated fire boundary ratings and ventilation details as requested by the OCMI, i.e., penetrations by the ventilation system of fire rated divisions.

- B. Fixed fire extinguishing system plans. “Fixed fire extinguishing system” includes water-based systems, CO₂, and clean agent systems. A time delay is required only for the CO₂ and clean agent systems (a minimum 20-second time delay for releases into manned spaces in accordance with the FSS Code). The adequacy of the time delay should be verified to ensure suitable time is afforded to evacuate the space.
- C. Automation system plans including a qualitative failure analysis for vital systems (i.e., power management system, propulsion control system, dynamic positioning system, centralized machinery monitoring and control system, etc.), or a letter from the classification society stating that the systems are designed to meet the failsafe requirements of SOLAS.

Further, the vessel owner/operator is responsible for submitting the following plans to the U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Response Plan Program for review and approval prior to the initial inspection:

- 8. Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (SOPEP) / Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan (SMPEP)
- 9. Vessel Response Plan (VRP) / Non-Tank Vessel Response Plan (NTVRP)

1.1.4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR VERIFICATION OF CLASS APPROVAL

The following information/plans and ACS approval letters should also be submitted to the OCMI (copying CG-5P-TI and MSC). Generally, these items will be examined only to verify the approval action of the ACS and will not undergo MSC design review or OCMI inspection unless problems or unusual items are noted.

- 1. Letter from the flag administration or ACS identifying the current version of the approved Trim and Stability booklet.
- 2. Letter from the flag administration or ACS indicating the vessel meets applicable SOLAS 74, as amended, damage stability requirements.
- 3. Letter from the flag administration or ACS indicating the level of review and approval of the following items, with all areas requiring special attention and inspection noted:
 - A. Structures
 - i. Midship Section
 - ii. Scantling Profile
 - iii. Strength Deck Structural Plan
 - iv. Shell Plating and Framing
 - v. Typical Watertight Bulkhead
 - B. Fire main systems
 - C. Bilge systems
 - D. Steering gear and steering gear alarm systems

NOTE: Alternatively, the information specified in Sections 1.1.3.6, 1.1.3.7, and 1.1.4 of this Enclosure may be included in the “gap analysis” (see Section 2.1.3 of this Enclosure) if verified and endorsed by the ACS.

1.2. DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE OCMI FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO INITIAL INSPECTION

In order to facilitate the onboard vessel inspection, the owner/operator should submit the following items for OCMI review, copying CG-5P-TI, no less than **30** days in advance of the requested date of attendance. This list should not be interpreted as being all inclusive and in no way limits the OCMI from requesting supporting documentation.

1. MARAD Office of Sealift Support determination of eligibility
2. MSC VSP plan review documentation and comments, if any
3. Contact information for the representatives attending on behalf of class and/or the previous flag administration
4. Contact information for the representatives attending on behalf of the recognized organization issuing the Safety Management Certificate
5. Contact information for the representatives who will be conducting the survey of radio equipment on behalf of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission
6. Reports of Port State Control (international) attendances, for previous 5 years (as applicable)
7. The following regulatory and statutory documentation issued by the current class/flag administration [NOTE: For new construction, documentation is not required until delivery]:
 - A. Classification Document
 - B. Current Registry Certificate
 - C. SOLAS Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate (SLC)
 - D. SOLAS Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (SLE) and Form E
 - E. SOLAS Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate (SLR) and Form R
 - F. International Load Line Certificate
 - G. International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate and Form A/B (as applicable)
 - H. International Pollution Prevention Certificate for the Carriage of Noxious Liquid Substances
 - I. International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate and Supplement
 - J. International Energy Efficiency Certificate (if applicable)
 - K. International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (if applicable)
 - L. International Safety Management (ISM) Certificate (SMC)
 - M. ISM Document of Compliance
 - N. Cargo Gear Certificate
 - O. Document of Compliance for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods
 - P. Continuous Synopsis Record (all previous)
 - Q. Copies of any exemption certificates or equivalencies

- R. International Tonnage Certificate (ITC)
 - S. Minimum Safe Manning Certificate
 - T. International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC)
 - U. Certificate of Fitness (as applicable)
 - V. International Anti-Fouling System Certificate (AFSC) (if applicable)
 - W. Polar Ship Certificate
8. Class record of Approved safety equipment
 9. Boiler and pressure vessel nameplate data
 10. Proof of payment of User Fees and Overseas Inspection fees (as applicable)
 11. Manning proposal
 12. Reports of flag administration attendances, for previous 5 years (as applicable)

NOTE: This list is not all inclusive and could include additional certificates or information depending on ship type.

2.1. EXPECTATIONS AND PREPARATION FOR INITIAL INSPECTION

The issuance of the initial Certificate of Inspection (COI) can be made provided that the following actions are satisfactorily completed.

1. A vessel inspection by the cognizant OCMI and CG-5P-TI is conducted with a surveyor from the vessel's classification society, or an official of the previous flag administration, in attendance. This individual should be capable of explaining all previous flag administration interpretations of SOLAS, MARPOL, ILLC, etc. should those questions arise. The conduct of the inspection (Section 3.1.1), deficiencies and expanded examinations (Section 3.1.5), and the need for a hull exam (Section 3.3) are described in this Enclosure.
2. The OCMI and CG-5P-TI are provided access to the last annual survey report of the classification society, the list of outstanding class recommendations and statutory requirements, and the latest drydock survey report (including access to the most recent gauging report if requested).
3. The OCMI, CG-5P-TI, MSC, and attending ACS surveyor are provided with a report of vessel systems, equipment, prior Flag Administration interpretations, or other items that meet a standard different from the U.S. statutory requirements for a vessel of similar size and service (e.g. pressure vessels that are not ASME stamped and lifejackets that are not U.S. Coast Guard Approved). The vessel's owner/operator is responsible for preparing and submitting this baseline report, known as the "gap analysis." The "gap analysis" should be reviewed by the ACS for accuracy. The "gap analysis" is designed to assist marine inspectors and the ACS in the identification and documentation of items in the vessel

inspection records that meet international, class, or previous flag administration interpretations of standards but not U.S. standards. Documenting these items should help avoid confusion on what was accepted at the initial inspection and duplication of this effort at subsequent inspections. It will also eliminate the need for the owner/operator to continue providing a representative of the previous flag administration at future inspections. Gapped areas do not necessarily require rectification at the time of reflagging if the item is in compliance with the standards of the previous flag administration at the time of reflagging. A finalized copy of the “gap analysis” should be included in the permanent USCG and ACS vessel record. It is recommended that it be retained on board.

NOTE: Novel arrangements or standards may be subject to additional U.S. Coast Guard oversight. Nothing in this guidance shall be construed as limiting the U.S. Coast Guard from requiring such tests or inspections as deemed necessary to be assured of the safety and seaworthiness of the vessel. If a vessel is found unfit for route and service, the procedures outlined in 3.1.5 should be followed.

2.2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MARINE INSPECTOR (MI)

During a MSP reflag the MI has a wide range of responsibilities. MIs should anticipate that the initial inspection will normally take up to three (3) days to complete. In addition to the requirements unique to MSP reflag, the initial inspection should be of a scope consistent with a traditional inspection for certification and an initial MTSA/ISPS verification. However, as mentioned in Section 1.7 of Enclosure (1), the U.S. Coast Guard may accept classification society surveys and certificates as evidence of compliance with class rules and international regulations for vessel equipment and systems. Early communication with vessel representatives is key for a successful initial inspection for certification. The attending MI should engage with vessel representatives as soon as possible to discuss the format and conditions under which the inspection will be conducted; for example, that no cargo operations should be conducted during the initial inspection, that a lifeboat and rescue boat launching exercise should be planned, and that all fire hoses should be prepared for pressure testing. Also, since a significant responsibility of the MI during the initial inspection is to determine the crew’s familiarity with the vessel, it is important to discuss the company’s plan for getting the U.S. crew onboard. Familiarity with the vessel shouldn’t come during the initial inspection. The company should make arrangements in advance of the reflagging to provide adequate vessel familiarization for the crew (i.e., riding the vessel to observe operations, etc.).

The MI should monitor the company’s progress toward submittal and approval, where necessary, of the items noted in Section 1.1 of this Enclosure. The MI should review the “gap analysis” as soon as it is available and ensure the class surveyor who will attend the initial inspection has a copy. It is also advantageous for the MI to begin a dialog with ACS in order to coordinate and monitor the plan review process. The plan review

process should be complete before the MI commences physical inspection of the vessel. SOLAS, MARPOL, ILLC, ITC, AFSC and other certificates required by international regulations will be issued by the classification society for all areas where they are authorized on behalf of the U.S. This may include a Statement of Voluntary Compliance-Maritime Labour Convention (SOVC-MLC) certificate. The MI should be familiar with the most recent “Status of Classification Society Recognition, Delegations, and Authorizations by the U.S. Coast Guard,” which can be found on the following web page: [Classification Society Authorization](#). The OCMI is responsible for issuance of the vessel’s COI, International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC), and other international certificates for which the classification society is not authorized to issue. Additionally, the MI should provide a new Oil Record Book, Official Log Book, and the updated Continuous Synopsis Record at the time of COI issuance.

2.2.1. MARINE INSPECTOR (MI) COMPETENCIES

The OCMI should ensure that the inspection team consists of at least one certified Machinery Inspector and one certified Hull Inspector or Hull Tankship Inspector as applicable. Other qualifications or addendums, such as Low Flashpoint Fuels, may be applicable depending on vessel particulars. To ensure continuity, where possible the lead MI should not be re-assigned or replaced until the reflag is complete. Commands absent MI capacity or minimum competency required to conduct a MSP reflag should contact their District Prevention Staff for guidance.

NOTE: To facilitate the inspection process, the Traveling Inspectors (CG-5P-TI) and/or staff members from the Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance (CG-CVC) may participate in the reflag. The role of CG-5P-TI is to provide consistency and overall coordination for vessel owner/operators, ACSs, OCMIIs, and interagency program offices.

2.2.2. DUTIES OF THE MARINE INSPECTOR

Recognizing that not every contingency can be contemplated, the following list summarizes many of the standard duties associated with the MSP reflag process. This list is not all-inclusive.

1. U.S. Coast Guard project management in the oversight of all document submittals to the OCMI as noted in Section 1.2.
2. Liaison with the ACS and MSC regarding all required plan review submissions, as applicable.
3. OCMI’s point of contact regarding all owner/operator inquiries.
4. Coordinate with ACS representative in conjunction with all aspects of the re-flag project.
5. Become familiar with the company’s “gap analysis.”
6. Evaluation and documentation of all existing equivalencies or exemptions to international standards or ACS rules.

7. Conduct inspection of the vessel for compliance with international conventions and previous flag administration requirements, per Section 3.1 of this Enclosure.
8. Evaluate all required ISM documents, required manuals, and shipboard logs.
9. Evaluation of the U.S. crew's familiarity with the vessel.
10. Review of the U.S. crew's documentation in accordance with STCW and U.S. manning requirements.
11. Review and draft COI and all CG issued statutory documents for OCMI signature.
12. Coordinate with CG-5P-TI and CG-CVC.

2.3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VESSEL OWNER/OPERATOR

The vessel owner/operator should ensure that all information and plans outlined in Enclosure (1) as well as Sections 1.1 and 1.2 of this Enclosure are provided well in advance of the initial inspection. The plan review process should be complete before the MI commences physical inspection of the vessel. The owner/operator should engage the U.S. Coast Guard National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) for preparation of the vessel's Certificate of Documentation (COD). The owner/operator is responsible for coordinating the issuance of the International Tonnage Certificate with the ACS and delivery to the NVDC. The NVDC will deliver the prepared COD to the MI scheduled to conduct the initial inspection for hand delivery to the vessel during the initial inspection. The company is required to forward a copy of the foreign registry deletion certificate and proof of ownership to the NVDC prior to the delivery of the COD by the MI. The MI will retain possession of the COD until the NVDC acknowledges receipt of the noted documents and authorizes its release. Additionally, the MSC will coordinate the advanced issuance of the Vessel Security Plan approval letter with the MI for delivery during the initial inspection.

NOTE: If the owner/operator cannot produce an ITC issued on behalf of the United States, the NVDC will issue a 90-day COD with the following remark: "This Certificate of Documentation is valid for 90 days or until the vessel is admeasured under the laws of the United States (whichever comes first)."

The vessel owner/operator is responsible for coordinating the final Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR), to reflect the date on which the vessel ceased to be registered with the previous flag administration. Additionally, prior to the initial inspection, the owner/operator should engage the U.S. Coast Guard CSR Desk for preparation of the vessel's new CSR. The new CSR reflecting the changes resulting from reflag, as required by 74 SOLAS (2020 Cons.) XI-1/5.1, should be provided onboard before the completion of the initial inspection. 74 SOLAS (2020 Cons.) XI-1/5.4.2 does not provide a grace period for the issuance of a new CSR resulting from a reflag. The NVDC will deliver the prepared CSR to the MI scheduled to conduct the initial inspection for hand delivery to the vessel during the initial inspection.

NOTE: In the event that the new CSR is not issued during the initial inspection, then a CG-835V may be issued for up to three months from the change of flag date in accordance with Resolution MSC.198(80) provided that an application for a CSR amendment was made.

Owners/operators should make the vessel available for the duration of the reflagging process, which normally takes up to three (3) days. During the reflagging of the vessel the company should not schedule or conduct any cargo operations. Prior to the initial inspection, an opportunity should be provided for the U.S. crew to become thoroughly familiar with the vessel as during the inspection the MI will assess crew proficiency with the operation of onboard systems, including but not limited to; lifesaving, firefighting, machinery, navigation, cargo systems, etc. Further, the inspection is also focused on the crew's familiarity with onboard contingency plans which may be referenced in an emergency (i.e., Vessel Security Plan, SOPEP, Non-tank Vessel Response Plan).

NOTE: Experience indicates that substandard materiel condition and crew familiarization are the two most significant factors affecting the duration of the reflag. Substandard conditions supported by objective evidence will result in schedule delays and control actions. Owners/operators are highly encouraged to undertake proactive measures to avoid any delays.

2.4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PREVIOUS FLAG ADMINISTRATION OR DESIGNEE (CLASS)

A representative from the previous flag administration or a designee (in writing) from class should be available both prior to and during the reflagging to provide explanations regarding previous interpretations of rules and regulations. Further, the designated representative should advise if the current statutory certificates will be annotated or if new certificates will be issued.

Since all current U.S. Coast Guard recognized ACSs are members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), IACS Procedural Requirement No. 28 may be referenced accordingly.

3.1. CARRYING OUT THE INITIAL INSPECTION/CERTIFICATION

3.1.1. CONDUCT OF THE INSPECTION

The initial inspection should be sufficiently detailed to verify full compliance with international regulations. As previously discussed, because MSP law allows participation by a vessel in compliance with international conventions in accordance with the previous flag administration's guidelines, MIs must have access to these guidelines. The owner/operator will ensure that a classification society representative authorized by the previous flag administration or a flag administration representative be in attendance throughout the reflag inspection. MIs should consult with this individual in all areas

requiring guidance as to the specific application of a particular international regulation by that administration. The “gap analysis” should also address these areas and provide references. During the inspection the owner/operator should prepare and make available the following plans and documents for the MI to review in English (non-exhaustive):

1. Vessel Response Plan / Non-Tank Vessel Response Plan (as appropriate)
2. Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (SOPEP) / Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan (SMPEP) (as appropriate)
3. Trim and Stability Booklet/Letter or Declaration
4. Damage Stability Information
5. Cargo Securing Manual
6. Oil Transfer Procedures
7. Fire Control Plans
8. Station Bill
9. Garbage Management Plan
10. Ballast Water Management Plan
11. Global Marine Distress Safety System (GMDSS) Log Book
12. Deck/Engine Log Books
13. SOLAS Training Manual
14. Firefighting Training Manual
15. Operations and Maintenance Manuals for Lifesaving Equipment
16. Annual examination/servicing records for lifesaving (e.g. per MSC.1/Circ. 1206/Rev.1 for all lifeboats and launching appliances, and liferaft servicing reports) and firefighting equipment (e.g. portable fire extinguishers, LPCO₂ system, HPCO₂ system)
17. Drug and Alcohol Program/Employee Assistance Program
18. Vessel Security Plan
19. Annual Performance Testing Report for the Voyage Data Recorder
20. Procedures and Arrangements Manual (P&A) (as appropriate for tank vessels)
21. IGS and COW Manuals (as appropriate for tank vessels)
22. Crew documentation: All USCG issued Merchant Mariner Credentials, TWIC, FCC GMDSS Licenses, Medical and Drug free certificates
23. Crew List
24. A copy of the Vessel Particulars
25. Agreement for shore-based maintenance of GMDSS equipment
26. Evidence of a valid Certificate of Financial Responsibility (COFR) (as applicable). *MIs can verify by checking “NPFC COFR Status” in MISLE*
27. Details for 46 U.S.C. 4901 compliance.

3.1.2. VERIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT

During the initial certification of a reflag MSP vessel, the U.S. Coast Guard accepts foreign non-USCG Approved equipment and systems that comply with the international conventions in accordance with the previous flag administration's guidelines. This includes the installation of equipment and systems, which are not compulsory at the time of reflag, but have been installed during the phase-in period of a corresponding regulation, so long as the equipment has been designed and installed in accordance with the IMO standards. As a condition of acceptance, the OCMI may verify specific systems and/or arrangements at the time of the initial inspection. Accordingly, the attending MI should inspect any structures, equipment, or systems as necessary, to ensure agreement with the plans reviewed by the ACS.

Prior to the conclusion of the initial inspection the MI should verify that the following items (at a minimum) have been updated to reflect the change in flag:

1. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)
2. Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) / Simplified-Voyage Data Recorder (S-VDR)
3. Automatic Identification System (AIS)
4. Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) (new USCG Conformance Test Report)
5. New markings for lifesaving equipment
6. New hull markings
7. Permanently marked Official Number (O.N.)
8. New GMDSS Markings
9. Bunk cards, station bill, muster list, and watch keeping schedule
New statutory certificates (SLC, SLE, SLR, ILLC, ITC, IOPP, IAPP, IEEC, ISPP, IAFS, SMC, DOC-Copy)

3.1.3. DOCUMENTING EQUIPMENT EQUIVALENCIES AND EXEMPTIONS

Because a vessel certificated under MSP enters U.S. flag with equipment and arrangements approved by international conventions, class rules, and approvals granted by previous administrations, it becomes imperative that the vessel's arrangement and equipment at the time of the initial inspection be clearly identified and adequately documented when and if it differs from U.S. standards. Ideally, identifying and documenting these differences is done in the "gap analysis." However, if the gap analysis fails to address a particular area, it becomes imperative that the MI document such differences. As is normal practice for initial inspections for certification, the MI should ensure that identifying data pertinent to lifesaving equipment (serial numbers, make and model information, capacities), firefighting equipment, etc. are documented in the vessel's MISLE records. The "gap analysis" and any additional differences discovered during the initial inspection must also be sufficiently documented in the MISLE narrative.

3.1.4. DRILLS

Prior to the issuance of the COI, satisfactory fire and abandon ship drills should be performed in the presence of a MI. These drills should verify the proper operation of lifesaving and firefighting equipment as well as the crew's familiarity with its proper use. The drills should be conducted after a U.S. crew has been placed onboard, but prior to the issuance of the COI. Additional drills may be requested by the OCMI as necessary. Further, prior to the issuance of the ISSC, a satisfactory security drill should be carried out to demonstrate the crew's familiarity with the vessel's physical characteristics and the provisions set forth by the USCG-Approved Vessel Security Plan.

3.1.5. DEFICIENCIES AND EXPANDED EXAMINATIONS

As mentioned in Section 1.7 of Enclosure (1) of this NVIC, the U.S. Coast Guard may accept classification society surveys and certificates as evidence of compliance with class rules and international regulations for vessel equipment and systems. During the initial inspection for certification, a sufficient amount of detail should be exercised by the MI to ensure vessel equipment and systems meet the appropriate standard. Any area suspected to be deficient should be subjected to an expanded level of inspection for the given area of concern. For areas where the recognized classification society does not possess a U.S. authorization to issue a particular international certificate, and thus, the U.S. Coast Guard will issue the certificate, a sufficiently detailed inspection must be completed to verify compliance. Vessels that are reflagging from a targeted flag administration or from a targeted classification society should be subject to a more detailed inspection. The U.S. Coast Guard may request additional tests, thickness gauging, internal examinations, ISM Code audits or other tests and inspections, as determined necessary, based on the results of the initial inspection.

If the vessel is found not compliant with international regulations and class rules, the COI should be withheld and Commandant (CG-CVC) notified. OCMI's are strongly encouraged to call upon the assistance of the Traveling Inspectors (CG-5P-TI) when this is the case. Commandant (CG-CVC) will notify MARAD whenever it appears that a prospective MSP vessel is not receiving a COI. Commandant and MARAD will then consult as to whether the vessel should be allowed to take corrective action in order to complete the certification process for entry into MSP, or whether the vessel should be excluded from MSP participation.

3.2. VESSEL MANNING

The minimum safe manning required for a vessel is determined by the cognizant OCMI as required by U.S. law, the CFRs, and U.S. Coast Guard policy. Specific information regarding U.S. Coast Guard manning level requirements may be found in the Marine Safety Manual, Volume III Part B. Accordingly, the manning levels prescribed by the previous flag administration may not be accepted by the U.S. Coast Guard. Therefore, in advance of the inspection, the owner/operator should provide their proposed manning to

the cognizant OCMI. The MI should discuss manning proposals and expectations with the vessel owner/operator and compare proposed manning levels with U.S. vessels of a similar design engaged in similar operations and routes.

3.2.1. MACHINERY SPACE ATTENDANCE

The OCMI's determination of acceptable machinery space attendance stems from the administration's (U.S.) interpretation of systems, controls, and capabilities under SOLAS Chapter II-1/Part E, 46 CFR Part 62, which includes the provisions for regular inspections and routine tests, required by Chapter II-1/Reg. 46.2. These provisions have been incorporated into the periodic inspection and testing regulations found in 46 CFR 61.40 and Part 62. They address scenarios in which a ship's automation has the capability to replace or augment the monitoring and control of machinery vital systems, which can lead to reduced watchkeeping requirements and, in some cases, reduced minimum manning levels. They apply, for instance, when automated systems are provided to support the watchkeeping duties of an officer-in-charge of an engineering watch in a manned engine room, or when automation is provided to permit minimally or periodically unattended machinery space operations (MAMS/PUMS).

1. In some cases, modifications may be required as experience has shown that the requirements contained within 46 CFR Part 62 differ from most common ACS unattended machinery space requirements (dead man alarm, bilge and fire pump controls, alarms, pressure monitoring devices). However, in accordance with 46 CFR 62.15-1(a), the U.S. Coast Guard may accept a substitute or alternative for the requirements of Part 62 if it provides an equivalent level of safety and reliability. Where it is intended to obtain U.S. Coast Guard certification for MAMS/PUMS (as appropriate), the U.S. Coast Guard will accept the following as a general alternative to the requirements in 46 CFR 62.50-20(a)-(g) and 62.50-30(a)-(i) and (k);
 - A. The vessel meets SOLAS II-1/Part E (as applicable) and was authorized for MAMS/PUMS by the previous flag administration;
 - B. The vessel meets 46 CFR 62.50-20(h) and/or 62.50-30(j), as appropriate; and,
 - C. The vessel and machinery installation is approved by a U.S. recognized classification society (see Paragraph 5.b. of this NVIC) for the assignment of the MAMS/PUMS class notation (as appropriate), and the following additional provisions are met:
 - i. Meets the failsafe requirements of SOLAS. (SOLAS Chapter II-1/Reg. 31.2.7; and Reg. 49.5 - PUMS). See Section 1.1.3.7 of this Enclosure.
 - ii. Propulsion safety trip control systems must not operate as a result of failure of the normal electric power source unless it is determined to be the failsafe state.

- iii. Sensors for the primary speed, pitch or direction of rotation control in closed loop propulsion control systems must be independent and physically separate from required safety, alarm or instrumentation sensors.
 - iv. An alarm to indicate starting capability of less than 50% of the requirement total starting capacity must be provided. (SOLAS Chapter II-1, Reg. 31.2.9; and Reg. 49.7 - PUMS).
 - v. Propulsion control from the Navigating Bridge is to be provided. (SOLAS Chapter II-1, Reg. 31.2 – MAMS; and Reg. 49.1 – PUMS).
 - vi. A personnel alarm must be provided and must annunciate on the Navigating Bridge if not routinely acknowledged at the centralized control station or in the machinery space.
 - vii. All required alarms must annunciate throughout the Centralized Control Station and the machinery space. (SOLAS Chapter II-1, Reg. 51 - PUMS).
 - viii. Continuity of electrical power. (SOLAS Chapter II-1, Reg. 53.2 – PUMS).
 - ix. The fire detection and alarm system must activate all alarms at the Centralized Control Station, the Navigating Bridge, and throughout the machinery spaces and engineer's accommodations.
 - x. The Centralized Control Station must include control of the main machinery space fire pumps. Where one or more fire pumps is required to be independent of the main machinery space, at least one of such pumps must be controlled from the Navigating Bridge. (See SOLAS II-2/10.2.2.3.1.2). All required fire pump control locations must include the controls necessary to charge the fire main and have (1) a fire main pressure indicator or (2) a fire main low pressure alarm.
2. Automation Test Procedures. If the vessel owner/operator requests approval for MAMS/PUMS and/or reduced manning as a result of engine room automation, the automation system and test procedures shall be in accordance with U.S. regulations and U.S. Coast Guard policy and shall be approved by MSC. However, if the ACS is authorized under 46 CFR 8.420, then the ACS may approve the automation test procedure (i.e., periodic safety test procedure) on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard in accordance with the applicable ACP supplement and MSC MTN 04-03. Additionally, periodic safety tests of the controls, alarms and systems in 46 CFR 61.40-6(a),

including subparagraphs C.i – C.x of Section 3.2.1.1, must be satisfactorily demonstrated prior to authorizing MAMS/PUMS (see Interim Acceptance below) and tested annually thereafter. The periodic safety test procedure is used to conduct these operational tests. To a certain extent, the OCMI may rely upon the reports and surveys of the ACS on the completion of all or portions of the required periodic safety tests. Where ACS testing is accepted, the MI will complete a sampling of onboard operational testing. In lieu of U.S. Coast Guard testing, an ACS authorized under 46 CFR 8.420 may certify to the OCMI that the periodic safety tests have been approved on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard and verified as satisfactorily demonstrated for the purposes of this section.

NOTE: The ACS, acting on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, should verify compliance with the annual testing requirement by reviewing shipboard records and conducting a representative sampling of tests. Manufacturer authorized testing reports are acceptable records, provided they conform to the approved periodic safety test procedure. If issues or problems are noted, the representative sampling should be expanded and the cognizant OCMI notified. The Coast Guard will conduct oversight during annual inspections.

3. Certificate of Inspection (COI). Once the OCMI is satisfied with the vessel's automation, the COI shall be issued with the "route and conditions" updated to reflect the approved automation taking into account Annex 4 of IMO Resolution A.1047(27), as amended. The following entry in the "Conditions of Operation" section shall be made identifying the mode of operation for which the propulsion plant is approved:

"Approved for [**periodically unattended**] or [**minimally attended**] machinery space operation. This approval and the minimum manning level specified on this Certificate of Inspection are contingent upon the proper operation of the automated control/automated monitoring/automated machinery management system(s). Any major alteration or failure must be reported immediately to the nearest OCMI."
4. Interim Acceptance. To support the transition to U.S. registry (particularly for MSP vessels where the COI has not yet been endorsed with MAMS or PUMS by the U.S. Coast Guard), those vessels seeking to operate with MAMS or PUMS that do not meet the requirements of 46 CFR 62.50-20 and/or 62.50-30 (as applicable) OR Subparagraphs C.i through C.x of Section 3.2.1.1, may request to operate under a MAMS/PUMS endorsement until the next credit dry-dock (excluding UWILD), provided that the remainder of Section 3.2.1 is satisfied and automation test procedures have been developed and submitted to the ACS or the MSC. The request should be submitted to the OCMI and identify any gaps to subparagraphs C.i – C.x of Section 3.2.1.1. The OCMI shall issue a CG-835V to align with and identify the gaps, to be due by the next credit dry-dock (excluding UWILD). Until any identified gaps are

resolved, manning levels specified in the manning block on the COI will reflect those of a fully manned engine room. This ensures full watchkeeping capability in a three-watch rotation, as permitted under STCW, in the event of a critical automation system failure.

NOTE: Based on a request, the OCMI may reduce the number of engineering ratings (i.e., QMEDs/Ratings Forming Part of an Engine-room Watch) from three to two based on an acceptable engineering planned maintenance program (46 CFR 62.20-3(a)(1)&(2)). However, in consultation with CG-CVC, the OCMI may increase the manning when it is determined that the level is insufficient for the safe operation of the vessel.

5. Modifications or Failures. Any major alteration or failures (i.e., casualties) of the automated vital systems must be reported immediately to the nearest OCMI. A major alteration of an automated vital system where a qualitative failure analysis (QFA) is required to be submitted (46 CFR 62.20-3(b)), necessitates onboard design verification tests (DVT) in accordance with 46 CFR 61.40-3 immediately after the installation of the automated equipment. Machinery or equipment failures, including those affecting the associated class notation, may result in the OCMI requiring a manned machinery plant operation. In some cases, an increase in manning may be warranted to support live continuous watches.
6. Deficiencies. If, during the course of any subsequent inspection, the vessel or its equipment is found not to comply with the requirements, the MI should point out the deficiencies and discuss corrective actions with the vessel representative. Depending on the seriousness of the deficiency, the cognizant OCMI may consider deferment of correction of minor deficiencies and issue a Vessel Inspection Requirement, Form CG-835V.

NOTE: Existing MSP vessels already endorsed for MAMS/PUMS by the U.S. Coast Guard will continue to operate within the conditions specified on the COI. Equipment provided to replace specific personnel or to reduce overall crew requirements that proves unsafe or unreliable in the judgment of the cognizant OCMI must be immediately replaced or repaired or vessel manning will be modified to compensate for the equipment inadequacy (46 CFR 62.50-1(c)).

3.2.2. REDUCED MANNING

1. A reduction in manning shall be established based upon satisfactory results of:
 - A. Fully satisfied Section 3.2.1 subsections 1 thru 3;
 - B. A period of proven operation and reliability (i.e., trial period) following the initial testing and de-bugging; and,
 - C. MI review / a period of U.S. Coast Guard onboard observation.
2. The period of proven operation and reliability (i.e., trial period) referred to in 3.2.2.1.B. is normally 3,000 hours. However, for vessels with at least two years of operation, the time may be reduced at the discretion of the OCMI provided 2,000 hours of continuous reliable operation and maintenance can be demonstrated. In these cases, the OCMI will reduce the trial period after certification (i.e., reflag) to 1,000 hours.
3. At the conclusion of the trial period the MI will review the machinery logs and alarm records, including the watch schedule, and may conduct interviews based on the outcome of this review. An onboard observation (underway), by the U.S. Coast Guard, may be required based on the results of the trial period and MI review, before reduced manning levels may be authorized. Once the OCMI is satisfied with the vessel's automation, an amended COI will be issued with the new manning level.

3.3. HULL EXAMINATIONS

Drydock examinations are generally not required in conjunction with the initial COI unless there are deficiencies which require drydocking to correct. Cargo tank and internal structural examinations (CTIE/ISE) are also not required; however, to assess the vessel's overall structural condition OCMI's may elect to conduct internal examinations in way of high stress or high corrosion areas such as mid-body ballast tanks.

Hull examination due dates will remain as previously established by the flag administration/classification society (see Enclosure (3) Section 1.1). At times non-credit hull examinations are sometimes done as part of a transfer of ownership and/or just prior to reflagging. When this occurs owners/operators should request the U.S. Coast Guard's attendance for oversight, even if the actual initial inspection and reflagging occur at a later date. A minimum of 14 days' notice should be provided to the U.S. Coast Guard office in whose area the examination will be performed. For examinations performed outside of the U.S., 30-day advance notice is requested.

3.4. UNDERWATER SURVEY IN LIEU OF DRYDOCKING (UWILD)

If the first intermediate hull examination after COI issuance is scheduled to be a UWILD, it may be completed for credit provided the U.S. Coast Guard attends and it is conducted following class rules/procedures. During the exam, a sampling internal structural

examination (ISE) to the satisfaction of the OCMI will be completed. U.S. Coast Guard advance notification should be provided as outlined in Section 3.3 above.

Companies wishing to enroll their vessels into the UWILD program beyond the first intermediate exam should refer to Enclosure (3).

3.5. POLLUTION PREVENTION

The vessel shall comply with all U.S. regulations and international pollution prevention requirements that would be applicable to a foreign vessel calling a U.S. port, including those required by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). When making initial application, tankships reflagged under this program should provide a copy of a valid U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Compliance (COC), Form CG-3583. Vessels that do not have a valid COC will undergo that examination as part of the initial reflag inspection. For vessels that have a valid COC, a spot check for continued compliance should be conducted.

3.6. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES UPON SATISFACTORY INITIAL EXAMINATION

3.6.1. CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION

Upon satisfactory completion of the initial inspection, the vessel will be issued a Certificate of Inspection (COI) for the route and service specified on its existing statutory certificates. At the owner/operator's request, the COI will be issued with an expiration date to harmonize with classification society certificate dates and not to exceed five years. See Enclosure (3) for additional details regarding formatting of the COI. The OCMI shall place the following endorsement on the COI and enter a Special Note in the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE) database:

"This vessel is certificated under the provisions of the Maritime Security Program (MSP) and is inspected and certificated solely in accordance with the requirements of class rules and international convention requirements as applicable. [Insert the following sentence if the vessel is a Tanker: Tankers must also comply with the requirements for a foreign tank ship Certificate of Compliance (COC)]. This vessel was issued its initial Certificate of Inspection in accordance with MSP on DD MMM YY." (Insert date inspection is complete).

"Drydock dates are monitored by the authorized classification society that issued the SAFCON. Notification of drydocking on these vessels will be provided by (enter class society) and the vessel operators to the local OCMI."

3.6.2. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CERTIFICATES

SOLAS, MARPOL, ILLC, ITC, AFSC and other certificates required by international regulations will be issued by the ACS for all areas where they are authorized to issue that certificate on behalf of the U.S. This includes specific authorizations granted under 46 CFR Part 8, or other existing authorizations. This may include a Statement of Voluntary Compliance-Maritime Labour Convention (SOVC-MLC) certificate. Where the classification society lacks an authorization, the U.S. Coast Guard will conduct the applicable inspection and issue the certificate after compliance is verified.

NOTE: Refer to the MARAD/USCG MOU regarding the voluntary compliance of RRF recapitalization vessels.

3.6.3. ISM CODE CERTIFICATES

A well implemented and functioning safety management system is a good indicator of compliance with safety and environmental protection requirements. The owner/operator should ensure that any changes resulting from the reflag process are adequately incorporated in and addressed by the safety management system. The ISM Code certificates for the U.S. must be issued by an ACS. The SMC is not required to be issued by the ACS that classes the vessel.

MI's shall verify compliance with the ISM Code during annual, periodic and COI inspections. ACS surveyors and MI's shall notify the cognizant OCMI and the issuer of the SMC when significant material deficiencies are found that may indicate ISM Code non-compliance.

3.6.4. INTERNATIONAL SHIP SECURITY CERTIFICATES (ISSC)

The U.S. Coast Guard has not delegated the authority to issue ISSCs to any other organization; therefore the U.S. Coast Guard will conduct ISPS/MTSA compliance exams and issue the ISSC to vessels successfully completing the examination.

NOTE: The International Ship Security Statement of Voluntary Compliance, CG-6045, may be used for RRF recapitalization vessels.

**3.6.5. INTERNATIONAL AIR POLLUTION PREVENTION CERTIFICATES (IAPP) AND
ENGINE INTERNATIONAL AIR POLLUTION PREVENTION CERTIFICATES
(EIAPP)**

Ships of 400 gross tons and greater, as measured under the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 (ITC), must demonstrate compliance with Annex VI through possession of an IAPP Certificate and its associated EIAPP Certificate(s). An EIAPP certificate is the internationally accepted documentation that a specific engine meets the international Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) emission limits for marine diesel engines required by Regulation 13 of Annex VI.

The U.S. Coast Guard or an ACS issues the IAPP Certificate; however, only the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues an EIAPP Certificate to a U.S. vessel. The EPA does not accept EIAPP Certificates of foreign administrations or their recognized organizations on a reciprocal basis in lieu of EPA certification. To obtain an IAPP for the U.S., vessel owners/operators must ensure that the engines have EIAPP certification from the EPA.

Vessel owners/operators of U.S. flagged vessels may contact their cognizant OCMI or ACS for application, inspection/survey, and issuance of an IAPP Certificate and its Supplement. Only ACSs that have been delegated the authority to issue IAPP Certificates on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard in accordance with 46 CFR 8.320 may issue IAPP Certificates to U.S. flagged vessels, including MSP reflagged vessels. U.S ships, including MSP ships, must also comply with the applicable EPA Engine Emission Regulations of 40 CFR Part 1042 (Category 1, Category 2, and Category 3 engines). Self-contained/portable (not installed/integrated), land-based non-road engines can be used in marine applications - these engines are subject to 40 CFR Part 1039. Compliance with EPA emission regulations is evidenced by the presence of a permanent emission control information label affixed to the engine.

Because issuance of EPA EIAPP Certificates is required prior to issuance of the IAPP Certificate, it is imperative that vessel owners/operators of vessels planning to reflag ships under MSP contact their engine manufacturers and obtain these required EPA certificates prior to scheduling MSP reflag exams. Compliance with all U.S. laws and regulations, including EPA Engine Emission Regulations, must be demonstrated.

Guidance on MARPOL Annex VI and issuance of IAPP Certificates is found in CG-543 Policy Letter 09-01.

Contingent upon a request from the OCMI and in consultation with the EPA, Commandant (CG-CVC) may consider short-term alternatives in the case of an unforeseen delay in the EIAPP review and certification process. Short-term alternatives may be considered where the owner/operator can demonstrate that timely application was made and the EIAPP certificates issued by the previous flag administration remain valid and relevant.

3.7. PAYMENT OF USER FEES AND OVERSEAS INSPECTION EXPENSES

User fees and overseas inspection fees (if applicable) shall be paid prior to conducting the initial inspection for certification. The vessel owner/operator is responsible for U.S. Coast Guard travel and per diem costs associated with overseas inspections. If owners/operators cannot arrange for advance payment of user fees and overseas inspection fees (if applicable) due to scheduling difficulties, Commandant (CG-CVC) shall be contacted to determine if a delay in payment will be permitted until after the inspection has commenced.

GUIDANCE FOR INSPECTION OF MSP VESSELS SUBSEQUENT TO INITIAL CERTIFICATION

1.1. GENERAL

MSP vessels will be inspected in accordance with the COI, applicable IMO instruments, and classification society rules following the schedule established under the IMO Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC). For vessels not enrolled in MSP-Select, the U.S. Coast Guard will attend COI annual inspections, as well as drydockings, ISE/CTIE, and UWILD examinations.

NOTE: The OCMI may accept continuous classification society surveys for crediting the ISE under the HSSC provided that a sampling ISE is completed, concurrently, at the drydocking/UWILD to the satisfaction of the OCMI.

The COI for MSP vessels, regardless of MSP Select status, is limited to these standard vessel details:

- Owner or operator, dimensions, etc.
- Manning requirements.
- Routes and conditions.

There is no need to list other items that would be traditionally found on a COI, provided they are listed on the applicable Convention certificates:

- Dry-dock dates.
- Machinery equipment.
- Cargo tank details and inspection dates.
- Lifesaving/firefighting details and inspection dates, etc.
- Any conditions of cargo carriage.

NOTE: COI amendments for existing MSP vessels may be requested in conjunction with the next U.S. Coast Guard scheduled attendance. See Section 3.6.1 of Enclosure (2) and Section 1.4 of Enclosure (4) for MSP and MSP Select COI endorsements respectively.

Owners or operators of certain MSP vessels may voluntarily apply to enroll their vessels in “MSP Select” after demonstrating satisfactory performance and substantial compliance with applicable rules and regulations for a period of at least three years inclusive of the first drydock or UWILD subsequent to being reflagged under MSP. Further details regarding MSP Select are contained in Enclosure (4).

NOTE: Minimum MI competencies shall align with Section 2.2.1 of Enclosure (2) for all subsequent inspection activities as applicable.

1.2. RE-ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION

Prior to issuing subsequent COIs after reflagging, MSP vessels must complete all required surveys within the time intervals allowed and also correct all outstanding conditions of class. COI expiration dates should, as is reasonable, coincide with the expiration dates of the applicable international convention certificates. Suspension or withdrawal of class shall be grounds for withdrawal of international convention certificates as well as the COI.

1.3. INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES

The recognized classification society will issue all international certificates for which they have authorization under 46 CFR Part 8. OCMI's will issue international certificates for which the recognized classification society is not authorized and should as far as practical harmonize the certificates with those issued by the ACS. For OCMI issued international certificates (except the ISSC), classification society surveys may be accepted as evidence of compliance with the MSP standard provided MI oversight was conducted. Owner/operator requests to extend statutory certificates or associated survey intervals should be routed via the ACS or OCMI, as applicable, through the chain of command to Commandant (CG-CVC). Additional information on extensions for vessels enrolled in MSP Select can be found in Enclosure (4).

NOTE: Refer to the MARAD/USCG MOU regarding the voluntary compliance of RRF recapitalization vessels.

1.4. MODIFICATION TO THE VESSEL SUBSEQUENT TO REFLAGGING

New installations or modifications to existing systems, made subsequent to the reflag should conform to the U.S. Coast Guard's interpretation of international regulations at the time of the modification in so far as reasonable and practical. Areas where the previous flag administration or classification society accepted a system or equipment prior to reflag which differs from the U.S. Coast Guard's interpretation for the international regulation (at the time of the initial inspection) should have been recorded in the "gap analysis" as well as the vessel's inspection record (MISLE) as indicated in Section 2 of Enclosure (2).

Generally, equipment that constitutes a "replacement in kind" is permitted provided the equipment conforms to the ACS rules and international standards. "Replacement in kind" is considered replacement of original equipment with equipment that is identical in fit and form to the original and where no modification or upgrade is completed. Prior to the replacement the owner/operator should submit a request to the OCMI, which outlines the "replacement in kind." Based on this information, the OCMI in consultation with the owner/operator and classification society will determine if the proposed replacement constitutes a suitable "replacement in kind." In some cases this may require consultation with the MSC.

Prior to the replacement or modification (other than those determined to be “replacement in kind”) the owner/operator will submit to the OCMI a comparative analysis showing the difference between the existing equipment and/or configuration and what would be required to meet the current regulations/standards. The OCMI in consultation with the owner/operator and classification society will determine if the proposed modifications are acceptable.

Further details regarding equivalencies and exemptions can be found in Section 1.5 of this Enclosure. Practical solutions are encouraged in these situations, but the overall goal is to have replacements or modifications that comply with U.S. interpretations of the most recent requirements of the international conventions. In some cases, this may require consultation with the MSC.

Additionally, plan review of modifications performed on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard by an ACS for vessels enrolled in MSP Select, should be done in accordance with the MSC MTN 04-03.

1.5. EQUIVALENCIES AND EXEMPTIONS

1.5.1. EQUIVALENCIES

Equivalencies are not waivers, but rather alternatives to U.S. or international requirements or standards that achieve an equivalent level of safety. As such, equivalency requests must include a comparative analysis, which aims to establish that the suggested alternative meets or exceeds the requirements or standards. The following chart outlines the request and approval process for obtaining equivalencies for MSP vessels.

Equivalency evaluations, comments and comparative analyses should be prepared by the ACS and forwarded to the MSC for approval. The ACS comparative analysis should clearly reflect the current standard (for which an equivalency is desired) and the suggested alternative, including any technical specifications. The submittal should also include an engineering analysis and quantified measures of merit using risk-based and/or performance based methodologies that justify the proposed equivalency. Only the U.S. Coast Guard can grant equivalencies for safety equipment, materials, installations, and qualifications approved under 46 CFR Subpart 2.75. Equivalencies for equipment not regulated under 46 CFR Subpart 2.75 may be classification society type approved; in such cases the ACS should notify MSC of any classification society determinations.

Equivalencies (SOLAS Chapter I Part A Regulation 5)

Step	Action		
1	Owner/operator applies, via their ACS, to the MSC to request an equivalency determination.		
2	The MSC will review the equivalency request, coordinate with COMDT (CG-ENG), and forward the determination to the owner/operator, with copy to the ACS and OCMI.		
3	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>If the vessel owner/operator is aggrieved by the decision</td> <td>Then the vessel owner/operator may request reconsideration from the decision authority. If after reconsideration the original decision is affirmed the vessel owner/operator may appeal to COMDT (CG-5PS).</td> </tr> </table>	If the vessel owner/operator is aggrieved by the decision	Then the vessel owner/operator may request reconsideration from the decision authority. If after reconsideration the original decision is affirmed the vessel owner/operator may appeal to COMDT (CG-5PS).
If the vessel owner/operator is aggrieved by the decision	Then the vessel owner/operator may request reconsideration from the decision authority. If after reconsideration the original decision is affirmed the vessel owner/operator may appeal to COMDT (CG-5PS).		

All determinations by the Commandant are final.

NOTE: Design and technical specifications meeting existing classification society rules established as part of the U.S. ACP Supplement may be accepted as an equivalent following this procedure.

1.5.2. EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions are not normally permitted. However, when permitted they are limited to circumstances outlined in U.S. regulation and/or international conventions and are typically based on limited routes or service; not the inability to comply with a requirement based on design or operational choices.

Exemptions (SOLAS Chapter I Part A Regulation 4)

Step	Action		
1	Owner/operator applies to the cognizant OCMI to request an exemption.		
2	Copy the ACS to assure information sharing.		
3	The OCMI will review and endorse the request with a recommendation and forward it via the chain of command to COMDT (CG-CVC).		
4	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>COMDT (CG-CVC) approves the exemption request</td> <td>COMDT (CG-CVC) will inform the applicant and copy the ACS, MSC, and OCMI.</td> </tr> </table>	COMDT (CG-CVC) approves the exemption request	COMDT (CG-CVC) will inform the applicant and copy the ACS, MSC, and OCMI.
COMDT (CG-CVC) approves the exemption request	COMDT (CG-CVC) will inform the applicant and copy the ACS, MSC, and OCMI.		

All determinations by the Commandant are final.

1.6. PERFORMANCE MONITORING, RISK ASSESSMENT AND TARGETING

The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for verifying regulatory compliance for U.S. vessels, including those in MSP and MSP Select. MSP vessel performance monitoring, risk assessments, and targeting are administered by U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Commandant (CG-CVC), and are intended to ensure the effectiveness of MSP and MSP Select. This is accomplished through analyzing historical performance data for enrolled vessels by reviewing the ACS, U.S. Coast Guard (MISLE), and commercial (EQUASIS) databases. Data is inputted into a scoring matrix to yield a list of targeted vessels for additional oversight. The risk model includes the following criteria: Port State Control

(PSC) detentions, Flag State Control detentions, CG-835V deficiencies (non-worklist items), vessel-related marine casualties, additional Safety Management Certificate (SMC) audits required under MISLE MSO activities, ship type, and vessel age. The results of performance monitoring and risk assessments are also used to determine initial entry into MSP Select, suitability for continued enrollment, and when additional oversight may be warranted.

MSP Select vessels are subject to two types of targeted oversight: (1) in port examination; and (2) drydock, internal structural exam, damage assessment, and repair activity oversight. Targeted oversight examinations are optional for OCMI's only if a satisfactory oversight examination or annual inspection was conducted within the past six months. Prior to conducting an oversight examination, MIs should review MISLE and classification society databases for past deficiencies and/or recommendations.

Oversight examinations should be as detailed as necessary to determine substantial compliance with ACS rules, regulations, or international conventions and be expanded as necessary. Every effort should be made to advise the local ACS office of the pending oversight examination to provide them the opportunity to attend. "In port" oversight examinations of MSP Select vessels should at a minimum include a review of vessel certificates, crew documentation, and a general examination conducted by walking through the vessel with an emphasis on areas with previous deficiencies issue by either U.S. Coast Guard or ACS. Drydock, internal structural, damage assessment, and repair oversight examinations should be similar in scope to statutory inspections with emphasis on areas which have previously been identified deficient.

OCMI's shall ensure MSP Select targeted oversight examinations are completed and documented in MISLE using the "IN SERVICE" selection from the "SUB ACTIVITY TYPE" menu.

Notification of serious structural issues, Flag or Port State detentions, recommendations to remove vessels from the MSP Select, requests for access to the ACS databases, and questions should be directed to U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Commandant (CG-CVC). The Traveling Inspector Staff (CG-5P-TI) may also be contacted for assistance.

1.7. TESTS AND MAINTENANCE

The intervals for tests and examinations of MSP vessels mandated by international convention should be in accordance with the U.S. interpretations of those international conventions unless specified otherwise. This includes such items as drydocking, internal structural examinations, cargo tank internal structural examinations, replacement of items with expiration dates, and the service interval requirements for lifesaving and firefighting equipment. The hull exam dates should align with the established anniversary date under the IMO HSSC. Additional guidance regarding the servicing of lifesaving appliances that are not U.S. Coast Guard approved is provided in Section 1.11 below. The frequency of survey intervals and survey procedure for items such as inspection of pressure vessels, tailshaft(s) (if the tailshaft(s) and seal are enrolled in an alternate

monitoring program as approved and administered by the ACS), boiler safety valves, fuel tank internals, auxiliary boiler examinations, and sea valve internal structural examinations will be governed by the ACS's rules and do not have to be listed on the COI. During the course of the inspection, the U.S. Coast Guard may accept classification society surveys and certificates as evidence of compliance with class rules and international regulations for this equipment and systems.

NOTE: The annual performance test of U.S. Coast Guard approved voyage data recorders (VDR) should be in accordance with NVIC 08-01 (series). The annual performance test of non-U.S. Coast Guard approved VDRs may be in accordance with the foreign approval specification and ACS requirements.

1.8. USER FEES AND REIMBURSABLE OVERSEAS TRAVEL

User fees, overseas inspection fees, and reimbursable overseas travel shall be paid in a manner consistent with other U.S. certificated vessels (46 CFR 2.10 & 46 USC 3317(b)).

1.9. DEFICIENCIES

A deficiency is a condition found not to be in compliance with the requirements of the relevant convention or regulation. Consistent with traditional U.S. Coast Guard inspections, MIs will issue deficiencies on Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V, and provide a copy to the vessel's Master or authorized representative. The OCMI may request and accept a report from an ACS surveyor as proof that a deficiency was corrected. Specific guidance regarding deficiencies issued to vessels enrolled in MSP Select can be found in Enclosure (4).

For deficiencies annotated on Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V, descriptions should be direct, succinct, quantifiable, and use descriptive language where possible. Deficiency statements should state the requirement and how the requirement is not met. In certain instances, it may be necessary to provide specific directions within the description. When drafting the Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V, the MI should list the deficiencies in order of severity, listing deficiencies restrictive in nature first. All deficiency descriptions should be as specific and descriptive as possible using quantifiable language and include the convention or regulatory cites for reference. The MI shall assign a compliance date appropriate to the nature of each deficiency. In making the determination, the MI should consider the following: the nature and severity of the deficiency, the time normally needed to correct such a deficiency, the availability of resources to correct the deficiency, and the vessel's itinerary.

The MI must notify the local ACS office that issued the relevant certificates of the related deficiency. Involvement of the ACS in the correction of deficiencies related to equipment, hull, structure, or ISM items is strongly encouraged. Deficiencies covered by a certificate issued by the ACS can normally be referred to the ACS to be tracked and closed in the allotted timeframe imposed by the MI. In all cases, deficiencies noted on Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V, shall be documented in MISLE under

inspection results. A report issued by the ACS can be accepted as prima facie evidence that the deficiency will be, or has been, corrected and as the basis for clearing the deficiency in MISLE. If the ACS report satisfies the deficiency, a statement to that effect should be entered in the deficiency correction section in MISLE with a comment included in the inspection narrative. Deficiencies referred to the ACS and closed by the MI based on a report(s) from the ACS are subject to additional oversight during subsequent inspections and audits.

For accountability purposes, rather than corresponding directly with an ACS, the OCMI should advise Commandant (CG-CVC), through a "Quality Case," when an ACS has demonstrated unsatisfactory performance. Examples of unsatisfactory performance may include unresponsiveness, unfamiliarity with applicable requirements, or a failure to follow the established procedures as discussed herein.

1.10. VESSEL OPERATIONS

All MSP vessels are subject to the provisions and regulations contained within 46 CFR Parts 35, 78, and 97 as applicable based on vessel service/cargo.

1.11. SERVICING AND REPAIRS OF NON U.S. COAST GUARD-APPROVED LIVESAVING APPLIANCES

1.11.1. SERVICING OF INFLATABLE LIFERAFTS

SOLAS liferafts that are not U.S. Coast Guard approved may be retained onboard based on their acceptance by the previous flag administration. Liferafts that are within their service date intervals at the time of reflagging are not required to be serviced until their next service due date. In accordance with IMO Resolution MSC.55(66), serviceable non-U.S. Coast Guard approved liferafts, which were approved by the previous flag administration, may be serviced at facilities outside of the United States that were approved by the previous flag administration. In such cases, the ship must be able to provide documentation that the station was approved by the previous flag administration at the time the servicing was carried out.

Otherwise, when the liferafts become due for service after the vessel is U.S. flagged, a U.S. Coast Guard approved servicing facility must be utilized in accordance with 74 SOLAS (2020 Cons.) III/20.8.1.2 (46 CFR 160.151-35). Under 46 CFR 160.151-35(c), a liferaft servicing facility in the United States may be approved to service liferafts that are not approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. Although these regulations were intended to address foreign approved rafts on foreign flag ships, they may also be applied to this situation.

Transport or refilling of non-DOT compliant compressed gas cylinders within the United States is not allowed except within a single port area for export. Foreign approved liferafts are unlikely to have a compressed gas cylinder that is DOT approved. The export exception of the law allows foreign flag ships to have their liferafts transported to

and from the ship to servicing facilities in the United States with non-DOT cylinders. Since MSP ships are certified based on international regulations using the previous administration's interpretations, the export exception for non-DOT cylinders may be appropriately applied to rafts for MSP ships. Retention of the original foreign approved cylinders is allowed provided that they are otherwise in compliance with the manufacturer's requirements.

NOTE: When non-U.S. Coast Guard approved liferafts become unserviceable and require replacement, such liferafts shall be replaced with equipment that is U.S. Coast Guard approved for the service and voyages intended. U.S. Coast Guard approved liferafts should be serviced at a U.S. Coast Guard approved servicing facility.

As indicated under Paragraph 3.b.(1) of this NVIC, Message R 061413A MAR 08 is hereby cancelled.

1.11.2. SERVICING AND REPAIRS OF LIFESAVING APPLIANCES

SOLAS lifeboats, rescue boats, and the associated launching appliances that are not U.S. Coast Guard approved may be retained onboard based on their acceptance by the previous flag administration. The procedural guidance in the appendix to Annex 1 to MSC.1/Circ.1206/Rev.1 should be followed when performing examinations, operational tests, and overhauls of lifeboats, launching appliances, and on-load release mechanisms in accordance with 74 SOLAS (2020 Cons.) III/20.11. The supplemental guidance in NVIC 03-19 should be referenced for servicing and maintenance activities on MSP vessels.

NOTE: See also CG-ENG Policy Letter 01-14, Lifeboat Release Mechanisms: Policy on Implementation of New SOLAS Regulation III/1.5 and IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ1392.

1.12. HYDROSTATIC TESTING INTERVALS FOR FIXED HIGH PRESSURE CO₂ SYSTEM CYLINDERS

Some flag administrations allow up to twenty years for the hydrostatic testing of CO₂ cylinders on fixed high pressure CO₂ systems. This is based on a 10% annual sampling of the cylinders and examination of the flexible loops that connect them to the manifold. In accordance with 46 CFR Part 147.65(a), the U.S. interpretation of SOLAS stipulates that cylinders must be hydrostatically tested at least once every twelve years if they remain full and onboard. Cylinders that are removed from the ship or refilled must have undergone hydrostatic testing within the last five years.

For MSP ships that have CO₂ cylinders onboard that currently exceed twelve years since the last hydrostatic test, the cylinders may be progressively tested after the reflagging provided that all of the cylinders have been tested within the last twelve years at the time of the completion of the first drydocking after becoming U.S. flag.

As an alternative, the owner or operator of U.S.-flagged vessels subject to inspection may follow the hydrostatic testing requirements found in IMO MSC.1/Circ. 1318/Rev.1 in lieu of 46 CFR 147.65 for high-pressure CO2 cylinders associated with fixed gas firefighting systems. See CG-ENG Policy Letter 02-23 for details.

NOTE: Retention of the original foreign approved (i.e., non-DOT) cylinders is permitted provided that they are otherwise in compliance with the manufacturer's requirements and tested at the intervals specified in this paragraph. Foreign approved cylinders (including SCBA bottles and portable extinguishers) may be hydrostatically tested at a facility qualified to retest them based on the foreign approval specification. The program for maintenance, testing and inspections should be identified in the maintenance plan under 74 SOLAS (2020 Cons.) II-2/14. DOT approved cylinders must be inspected, retested, and marked in conformance with 49 CFR Part 173.

1.13. INSPECTION INTERVALS FOR FIXED LOW PRESSURE CO₂, HALON, AND FOAM EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS

While low pressure CO₂ fire extinguishing systems are not required to be modified (e.g. no agent powered time delay and alarm/shutdown) in order to be accepted on board MSP vessels, they are required to be inspected in accordance with the provisions stipulated within 46 CFR Part 61.10-5(g).

Halon and foam extinguishing systems should be inspected and serviced in accordance with the U.S. interpretations of international regulations.

1.14. UNDERWATER SURVEY IN LIEU OF DRYDOCKING (UWILD)

OCMIs should require all MSP reflagged vessels that wish to enroll, or continue participation in the UWILD program, to complete the requirements for entry into the program in NVIC 1-89 (Underwater Survey Guidance) at the next out of water hull examination. This includes any unscheduled drydockings due to a casualty, maintenance availability or other reason.

Two potential scenarios for MSP vessels enrolling in UWILD are as follows:

New MSP reflaggings due for Intermediate drydocking survey. In accordance with Enclosure (2), the vessel will be permitted to complete the UWILD under their ACS rules with a MI in attendance; however, in order to continue to participate in the program, any requirements listed in NVIC 1-89 must be completed during the next drydocking. A Special Note should be entered in the MISLE vessel file that the requirements of NVIC 1-89 are to be completed at the next drydocking.

Previously reflagged vessels due for drydocking for Special Survey. If the vessel is to continue participation in the UWILD program, all the elements listed in NVIC 1-89, must be completed during that drydocking.

For vessels participating in the MSP Select refer to Section 1.5.5 of Enclosure (4).

1.15. TRANSFER OF CLASS

Vessels enrolled in MSP may transfer to another ACS only after receiving approval from Commandant (CG-CVC). Since all current U.S. Coast Guard recognized ACSs are members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), the transfer must be completed in accordance with IACS Procedural Requirement No. 1A.

Notification of intent to transfer class should be made to Commandant (CG-CVC) in advance of the anticipated hand-over (i.e., “class entry survey”) survey. The most recent “Status of Classification Society Recognition, ACP Participation, and Authorizations Delegated by the U.S. Coast Guard” should be reviewed in advance and the U.S. Coast Guard may elect to attend the hand-over survey with the gaining society surveyor. The CSR should be amended as necessary.

After a transfer of classification societies, the vessel will be inspected using the gaining classification society’s rules, the applicable CFRs, and international conventions. overseas inspections

1.16. OVERSEAS INSPECTIONS

To the maximum extent possible, the U.S. Coast Guard will attempt to work with vessel owners/operators to schedule inspections and oversight activities when the vessel is in a U.S. port. However, for vessels that operate or conduct drydockings overseas, the owner/operator should, when practical, make the vessel available in an accessible port and schedule U.S. Coast Guard personnel to attend. Additionally, the company shall reimburse the U.S. Coast Guard for overseas travel expenses for MIs attending any inspection, including those for unscheduled oversight (46 USC 3317(b)).

In some cases, vessels operate in foreign locations not accessible to U.S. Coast Guard personnel because of U.S. State Department travel restrictions. In this unique circumstance, within 90 days of the COI’s anniversary date or prior to the due date for hull examinations, the vessel's master should attest in writing to the cognizant OCMI that the vessel is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, and the ACS should verify that the vessel is in compliance with the certificates which it has issued. The owner/operator should notify the U.S. Coast Guard when the vessel will be at its first port of call accessible to inspection personnel, so that an inspection can be scheduled as may be necessary.

1.17. U.S. COAST GUARD REQUESTS FOR ATTENDANCE OF ACS PERSONNEL

The U.S. Coast Guard may request that an ACS surveyor attend the vessel to verify compliance with any certificate issued by the ACS or to clear a U.S. Coast Guard issued deficiency. Attendance of the ACS surveyor may be in conjunction with a MI. The U.S. Coast Guard shall initiate the request for attendance of an ACS surveyor with the vessel master and/or the vessel's company representative whenever possible. However, if the master or company declines to make the request, the U.S. Coast Guard may directly request classification society surveyor attendance. All fees and other expenses for the attendance of a classification society surveyor, whether initiated by the U.S. Coast Guard or the vessel owner or operator, are the responsibility of the vessel owner/operator.

1.18. ACCESS TO REPORTS AND RECORDS

The U.S. Coast Guard should be provided with unrestricted access to review any and all classification society records for vessels in MSP. Records may include but are not limited to international certificates issued by an ACS on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, or any records, files, reports, documents, certificates, or similar material held or issued by the ACS.

1.19. ACS RESPONSIBILITIES

ACS personnel are reminded of their obligations and responsibilities as stipulated in the respective Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement with the U.S. Coast Guard for certain survey and certification services as well as plan review for U.S. flagged vessels, regardless of MSP status. Specifically, the ACS should ensure that prompt notification is provided to the cognizant OCMI of any condition of the vessel or its equipment that does not correspond substantially with the particulars of the certificate of inspection, international certificates, or is such that the vessel is not fit to proceed to sea without danger to the vessel or persons on board. This notification will allow the U.S. Coast Guard the opportunity to conduct a timely investigation or examination as appropriate.

1.20. DAMAGE SURVEYS AND MARINE CASUALTIES

Nothing in MSP or classification society authorizations should be interpreted as limiting or restricting the authority of a U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) or OCMI to exercise control over vessels as provided in existing laws and regulations.

Owners/operators, agents, Masters or persons in charge of MSP or MSP Select vessels that are involved in a marine casualty are required to report and shall provide that report directly to the U.S. Coast Guard as required by Title 46 CFR Part 4.05-1 and 46 CFR 4.05-10. Following any marine casualty, vessel owners/operators may have the ACS assess the materiel condition of the affected vessel and approve repairs, as authorized by the OCMI. The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct marine casualty investigations as authorized and required by federal law.

1.21. OCMI NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

See Section 1.7 of Enclosure (4). Except – See Section 1.3 of Enclosure (3) for extensions of statutory certificates or associated survey intervals for non-MSP Select vessels.

GUIDANCE FOR THE MSP SELECT PROGRAM

1.1. GENERAL

Enrollment in the MSP Select is voluntary for MSP vessels (and does not affect their standing in MSP itself). Unless stipulated otherwise in this Enclosure, the requirements and procedures outlined previously in this NVIC remain applicable to MSP Select vessels.

MSP vessels may be enrolled in MSP Select after demonstrating satisfactory performance and substantial compliance with applicable rules and regulations for a period of at least three years inclusive of the first drydock or UWILD subsequent to being reflagged under MSP. Vessels that meet any of the criteria as stipulated in Section 1.12.2 of this Enclosure will not be considered favorably for MSP Select. Enrollment into MSP Select is contingent upon a positive review of the vessel's inspection history, a satisfactory hand-over survey, and a positive endorsement from the cognizant OCMI. Prior to making an endorsement, the OCMI should review the vessel's inspection record taking into account previously issued deficiencies, marine casualties, operational controls, port state control deficiencies/detentions, and ACS survey records.

Owners/operators wishing to enroll existing MSP vessels, which already meet the above enrollment criteria at the time of NVIC publication, in MSP Select should apply in accordance with the provisions discussed herein. The hand-over survey should coincide with the next scheduled annual survey.

1.2. HOW TO APPLY

Owners/operators wishing to enroll their MSP vessel in MSP Select should apply by submitting an Application for Inspection, Form CG-3752, to the cognizant OCMI. The form must indicate the owner/operator's desire to have a vessel enrolled in MSP Select. The application should include the name of the ACS that will assume responsibility for the vessel's compliance with statutory requirements.

1.3. HAND-OVER SURVEY

The joint hand-over survey is conducted by an ACS surveyor and a MI and is required for enrollment in MSP Select. The hand-over survey should coincide with the next scheduled U.S. Coast Guard annual inspection and include any relevant survey and inspection items needed to endorse the applicable international certificates. The surveys and inspections for the international certificates may have commenced or been completed in advance of the hand-over. Any U.S. Coast Guard issued certificates will be replaced with classification society, where authorized, issued certificates as part of the hand-over survey. After completing the inspection history review and hand-over survey, the OCMI will provide either a positive or negative MSP Select enrollment endorsement to Commandant (CG-CVC), via the chain of command, for final approval. Commandant (CG-CVC) will notify the vessel owner/operator, ACS, and OCMI of MSP Select

enrollment decisions. Vessels that do not receive a positive MSP Select enrollment endorsement may re-apply at a time to coincide with the next U.S. Coast Guard annual inspection. Should the owner/operator retract the application for MSP Select enrollment, the vessel may similarly re-apply at a time to coincide with the next U.S. Coast Guard annual inspection.

NOTE: A vessel may be enrolled in MSP Select with outstanding (but not overdue) deficiencies and/or conditions of class provided they are not ISM Major Non-conformities or deficiencies imposed with restrictive control actions.

Upon MSP Select enrollment, CG-CVC will enter a Special Note in MISLE as follows:

"MSP Select enrollment was based upon a satisfactory hand-over survey on DD MMM YY" (Insert date inspection is complete).

1.4. ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES

Upon Commandant (CG-CVC) approval, the MSP Select vessel will be issued a COI for the route and service specified on its existing COI and statutory certificates. MSP Select vessel COIs will no longer contain dates for hull exams, boiler information, pressure vessels, nor will pertinent lifesaving and fire equipment details be listed. The OCMI shall place the following additional endorsement on the COI:

"This vessel is certificated under the provisions of the Maritime Security Program (MSP) Select and is inspected and certificated solely in accordance with the requirements of class rules and international convention requirements as applicable. [Insert the following sentence if the vessel is a Tanker: Tankers must also comply with the requirements for a foreign tank ship Certificate of Compliance (COC)]. This vessel was issued its initial Certificate of Inspection in accordance with MSP on DD MMM YY (Insert date inspection is complete)."

"MSP Select enrollment was based upon a satisfactory hand-over survey on DD MMM YY" (Insert date inspection is complete).

"Drydock dates are monitored by the authorized classification society that issued the SAFCON. Notification of drydocking on these vessels will be provided by (enter class society) and the vessel operators to the local OCMI."

An ACS may issue or endorse international certificates in accordance with the provisions for each convention to U.S. vessels. The ACS will issue all international certificates for which they have an authorization under 46 CFR Part 8. For MSP Select vessels, the ACS may extend the endorsement of international certificates up to 90 days from the last date required on a valid full term certificate. Extensions of expiring full term certificates are not allowed, however the ACS may issue provisional certificates for up to 90 days in

order to complete the surveys necessary to issue the full-term certificate. Commandant (CG-CVC) must approve extensions beyond these time frames.

1.5. INSPECTIONS AND EXAMINATIONS

MSP Select annual examinations subsequent to the hand-over survey should be of a similar scope and frequency afforded ACP vessels. For tank ships, the scope during the required annual examination should be at least equivalent to a foreign tank ship COC examination.

1.5.1. COI RENEWAL AND ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS

The U.S. Coast Guard issues COIs to MSP vessels for a period not to exceed five years. Applications for an inspection for certification should be made to the U.S. Coast Guard 30 days prior to the date desired. During the examination, the MI should review ACS reports and records of various tests and examinations required as a condition of classification and verify compliance with international codes and convention regulations. COI renewal and annual exams will include emergency and safety drills to evaluate the proficiency of the vessel's crew. During the course of the examination, MIs will observe the vessel's various systems in operation, and evaluate the vessel's materiel condition as well as verify compliance with the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, and ISPS/MTSA vessel security compliance. MIs will also examine crew documentation, vessel manuals, and maintenance records during these activities.

1.5.2. TARGETED OVERSIGHT EXAMINATIONS

Additional targeted oversight examinations may be completed as a result of Performance Monitoring, Risk Assessment and Targeting as outlined in Enclosure (3). MSP select vessels are subject to two types of targeted oversight: (1) "in port" examination; and (2) drydock/UWILD, internal structural exam, damage assessment, and repair activity oversight.

Targeted oversight examinations are optional for OCMI's only if a satisfactory oversight or annual examination was conducted within the past six months. Prior to conducting an oversight examination, MIs should review MISLE and the classification society databases for past deficiencies and/or recommendations.

1.5.3. DRYDOCK (DDE), INTERNAL STRUCTURAL (ISE), UNDERWATER (UWILD), AND CARGO TANK INTERNAL (CTIE) OVERSIGHT EXAMINATIONS

These examinations are to be conducted in accordance with ACS procedures, at the intervals for hull surveys prescribed by the ACS's rules. MIs may attend these examinations based on the results of performance monitoring, risk assessments, and targeting as outlined in Section 1.6 of Enclosure (3).

1.5.4. DAMAGE SURVEYS AND MARINE CASUALTIES

Damage surveys and marine casualty reporting will be in accordance with Section 1.18 of Enclosure (3).

1.5.5. INSPECTION ACTIVITIES RETAINED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD

The following marine inspection activities as they relate to MSP Select vessels have not been delegated:

1. All manning issues;
2. Final approvals for Engine Automation (PUMS/MAMS);
3. Drydock examination or other survey extensions in excess of 90 days;
4. Issuance of Permits to Proceed for repairs;
5. Exemptions or equivalencies to international conventions; (examples: Load Line, SOLAS and MARPOL);
6. Issuance of Excursion Permits;
7. Change of employment inspections;
8. Critical Area Inspection Plan (CAIP) enrollment/examinations;
9. Issuance of Certificates of Alternative Compliance (COLREGS);
10. Approval of a vessel's enrollment in the Under Water In Lieu of Drydock (UWILD) Program, in accordance with NVIC 1-89 (series);
11. Approvals of safety equipment, materials, installations, and qualifications required by Title 46 CFR Part 2.75;
12. Issuance of Continuous Synopsis Records (CSR);
13. Issuance of Approval and assessment of Ship Security Plans;
14. Issuance of International Ship Security Certificates;
15. Major Conversion Determinations; and
16. Ballast Water Management compliance and enforcement.

ACTIVITIES RETAINED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD

Activity	Contact	Comment
Drydock interval extensions	COMDT (CG-CVC) via local OCMI & ACS	Beyond 90 days only, less than 90 days may be extended directly by the ACS.
Underwater survey in Lieu of Drydocking (UWILD) participation	COMDT (CG-CVC) via ACS	The enrollment process for MSP Select vessels follows NVIC 2-95 (series), <u>as amended</u> .
International convention equivalencies/ADAs/exemptions	MSC*/COMDT (CG-CVC) via local OCMI & ACS	<u>*COMDT (CG-ENG) typically retains equivalency and ADA authority decisions related to international conventions for IMO reporting purposes.</u>
Marine Casualty/Personnel Investigations	Local OCMI	Contact the cognizant OCMI as required by Title 46 CFR Part 4.05 and 5.101.
Alternate Compliance with COLREGS	Local U.S. Coast Guard District Commander via local OCMI	Rules of the road deviations.
Approvals required by 46 CFR Part 2.75	COMDT (CG-ENG)	Approvals of Safety Equipment, Materials and Installations, and Qualifications for Construction Personnel.
International Ship Security Certificates	Local OCMI for certificates and MSC for associated plan approval	MSC approves all U.S. Vessel Security Plans before local issuance of an International Ship Security Certificate.
Continuous Synopsis Records (CSR)	National Vessel Documentation Center	The National Vessel Documentation Center issues CSRs.

CONTACT THE LOCAL U.S. COAST GUARD OCMI DIRECTLY FOR:

Activity	Contact	Comment
Excursion permits	Local OCMI	Normally used for embarking a group of non-paying guests to ride a vessel for a one or two day trip close to land but the total number of guests exceeds the vessel's lifesaving equipment capacity. Additional life rafts, lifejackets and other measures may be temporarily put onboard to supplement the vessel's total lifesaving equipment capacity.
All manning issues	Local OCMI	e.g. reduced manning for engine room automation.
Permits to proceed	Local OCMI	Used in cases where a vessel has such significant deficiencies that its COI is withdrawn. This temporary permit allows the vessel to proceed only to a repair facility.
Vessel security issues	Local OCMI	For assessments, verification, and certificates.
Critical Area Inspection Plan (CAIP) Examinations	Local OCMI	Special program normally used for tracking fracture problems in large oil tankers.

NOTE: Permits to Proceed and Changes of Employment apply only to the COI. They do not replace international convention certificates. If the vessel will call in a foreign port, it must have valid international convention certificates.

1.6. RECORDS OF EXAMINATION

Record keeping for MSP Select vessels shall be conducted in the same manner as ACP. The ACS will be responsible to track all class and statutory survey completion and due dates in their database which will be accessible to the U.S. Coast Guard. Vessel owners/operators should notify the ACS and OCMI of any scheduled drydocking or UWILD at least 14 days in advance; 30 days if the survey is to take place overseas. This will allow the U.S. Coast Guard time to plan their attendance for oversight, if desired.

As with ACP, the OCMI may allow an ACS to clear a “CG-835V” deficiency. Upon request, the vessel master is responsible for providing the attending MI any ACS report that attests to the correction of a U.S. Coast Guard issued deficiency.

MIs should document MSP Select vessel attendances in the vessel’s MISLE record. Deficiencies noted on Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V, should be documented under inspection results. See Section 1.9 of this Enclosure for additional information on deficiencies.

NOTE: MISLE ACP-oversight inspection titles should not be used to document MSP Select inspection activities. Targeted oversight examinations should be documented in accordance with Section 1.6 of Enclosure (3).

1.7. OCMI NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Except in the case of casualty damage or other unforeseen contingency, vessel owner/operators should notify the ACS and OCMI at least 14 days in advance; 30 days if the survey is to take place overseas, of the commencement of any surveys listed below to allow time for classification societies and the cognizant OCMI to plan their attendance:

- Surveys required as a condition of classification; and
- Surveys that result in the issuance of international convention certificates.

The ACS and vessel owner/operator should notify the cognizant OCMI whenever:

- A survey involves drydocking (including Underwater survey in Lieu of Drydocking) or internal structural examination (provide the completion dates of drydock and internal structural exams).

The ACS should notify the cognizant OCMI whenever:

- Clearing a U.S. Coast Guard issued deficiency (“CG-835V”);
- Any survey or audit reveals evidence of:
 - An apparent violation of any applicable law or regulation on the part of a vessel's owners, operators, licensed or documented crewmember (e.g., presence of oily residue in a segregated ballast tank may be evidence of an apparent violation of pollution prevention regulations);
 - Previously unreported vessel damages; and

- ISM code major non-conformities;
- Extending:
 - A classification certificate; or
 - An international convention certificate;
- Issuing:
 - Equivalencies to international codes and conventions (see Section 1.8 for procedures).

1.8. EXEMPTIONS AND EQUIVALENCIES

Further details regarding equivalencies and exemptions can be found in Section 1.5 of Enclosure (3). These sections also apply to MSP Select vessels subsequent to reflagging.

1.9. DEFICIENCIES

A deficiency is a condition found not to be in compliance with the requirements of the relevant convention or regulation. All deficiencies identified by U.S. Coast Guard personnel shall be reported to the ACS and vessel representative and be recorded on Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V. A CG-835V should not be issued for deficiencies identified by a MI that are already issued as a Condition of Class or statutory finding by the ACS.

The MI must notify the local office of the ACS that issued the relevant certificates of the related deficiency. Involvement of the ACS in the correction of deficiencies related to equipment, hull, structure, or ISM items is strongly encouraged. For deficiencies discovered by the U.S. Coast Guard, which fall under the authorization of the ACS, the deficiency should specify that corrective measures be made to the satisfaction of the ACS. The ACS's surveyor may extend or modify the deficiency with permission from the issuing OCMI. The ACS surveyor-in-charge should also be notified prior to any action taken against the vessel's COI based either on the vessel's materiel condition or Safety Management System (ISM Code) compliance. For major materiel conditions items (deficiencies that are restrictive in nature) the procedure contained in Section 1.10, below, shall be followed.

Deficiencies issued by the U.S. Coast Guard shall be tracked in MISLE and the ACS database. Deficiencies noted on Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V, shall be documented in MISLE under inspection results. When a MI discovered deficiency is referred to and accepted by the ACS, the deficiencies should normally be marked as resolved in MISLE following the receipt of a finding number issued by the ACS. Deficiencies closed in this manner will be subject to additional oversight during future inspections or audits.

For deficiencies annotated on Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V, the MI should note the description of the deficiency in a direct and succinct statement that should contain two important elements. First, the description should describe the standard the vessel does not meet. Second, the description should state why the vessel does not meet

the requirement. When drafting the deficiency, the MI should attempt to order deficiencies in order of severity, listing deficiencies restrictive in nature first. All deficiency descriptions should be as specific and descriptive as possible using quantifiable language and include the convention or regulatory cites for reference. The MI shall assign a compliance date appropriate to the nature of each deficiency. In making the determination, the MI should consider the following: the nature and severity of the deficiency, the minimum amount of time normally needed to correct such a deficiency, the availability of resources to correct the deficiency, and the vessel's itinerary.

ACS reports should normally be accepted as prima facie evidence that a deficiency has been corrected. If the ACS report satisfies the deficiency, a statement to that effect should be entered in the deficiency correction section in MISLE with a comment included in the inspection narrative.

For accountability purposes, rather than corresponding directly with an ACS, the OCMI should advise Commandant (CG-CVC) when an ACS has demonstrated unsatisfactory performance. Examples of unsatisfactory performance may include unresponsiveness, unfamiliarity with applicable requirements, or a failure to follow the established procedures as discussed herein.

1.10. MAJOR MATERIEL CONDITION DEFICIENCIES OR MAJOR NON-CONFORMITIES FOR ISM CODE

Any deficiency or ISM non-conformity that poses a serious threat to personnel or vessel safety or a serious risk to the environment and requires immediate corrective action is considered major. In addition, the lack of effective and systematic implementation of a requirement of the ISM Code is also considered a major non-conformity. Major materiel condition deficiencies and ISM major non-conformities are those that, if discovered on a foreign flag vessel, would justify a Port State Control detention. In the case of a U.S. flag vessel, a Flag State detention should be imposed for similarly severe deficiencies or major non-conformities. During any examination, the OCMI will notify the ACS if a MSP Select vessel is considered unsafe to proceed to sea, or if it presents a serious threat to life, property, or to the marine environment. For ISM related non-conformities, the ACS will be notified.

a. Upon detection of a major materiel deficiency¹

Step	Action
1	The OCMI shall promptly contact the vessel owner/operator and the classification society surveyor-in-charge, inform them of the specific nature of the deficiency and ascertain their proposed corrective action.
2	The OCMI may take control action as deemed necessary. Actions may include not issuing the COI, or amending, suspending, denying, revoking the COI. A Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V, will be issued.
3	If a control action is required on a MSP Select vessel, the OCMI shall notify COMDT (CG-CVC).
4	A marine violation may be initiated.

¹ INCLUDES PORT STATE CONTROL DETENTIONS

b. Upon detection of an apparent ISM major non-conformity¹

Step	Action
1	Where a deficiency may be linked to an apparent major non-conformity (NC) with the ISM Code, the OCMI should require an additional verification audit to be conducted on the vessel, company or both to establish compliance with the ISM Code. A Vessel Inspection Requirements, Form CG-835V, will be issued.
2	If an additional verification audit is required by the OCMI, the ACS and COMDT (CG-CVC) should be notified immediately.
3	If the audit results in a major NC, the ACS shall notify COMDT (CG-CVC). The vessel may not operate until the ACS accepts a corrective action plan, the major NC is downgraded or removed, and concurrence from COMDT (CG-CVC) is provided.

¹ INCLUDES PORT STATE CONTROL DETENTIONS

1.11. REVOCATION OF A COI OR STATUTORY CERTIFICATES

Only the OCMI or U.S. Coast Guard District Commander may revoke a COI or international certificate. Common reasons for this action are non-compliance with ACS conditions and requirements relating to statutory deficiencies (including ISM major non-conformities), substantial materiel deficiencies, unreasonable delays in correcting conditions or deficiencies, and expiration or invalidation of required documents. COI revocation may be grounds for involuntary disenrollment from the MSP Select Program.

NOTE: The ISM Document of Compliance may only be revoked by Commandant (CG-CVC).

1.12. DISENROLLMENT FROM MSP SELECT

Disenrollment from MSP Select may take place either voluntarily or involuntarily and will normally result in the vessel returning to MSP regular. When practicable, this transfer should take place in conjunction with a scheduled annual examination.

1.12.1. VOLUNTARY DISENROLLMENT

Vessel owners or operators wishing to voluntarily disenroll from MSP Select should notify the ACS and the cognizant OCMI in writing via an Application for Inspection, Form CG-3752. The OCMI should also notify Commandant (CG-CVC) to ensure program records are updated.

Following voluntary disenrollment, owners/operators may apply for re-enrollment any time after one year from being disenrolled using the application procedures in Section 1.2 of this Enclosure. Re-enrollment examinations should be scheduled to maintain certificate harmonization.

1.12.2. INVOLUNTARY DISENROLLMENT

MSP Select vessels not maintained in accordance with applicable rules, regulations, or policies, and/or targeted for additional oversight for more than one year through their unsatisfactory performance and/or non-compliance with applicable standards may be involuntarily disenrolled from the MSP Select program. Vessels involuntarily disenrolled will be ineligible to re-enroll in MSP Select for five years. Commandant (CG-CVC) will make all involuntary disenrollment determinations. Below are the criteria that could lead to disenrollment:

1. Removal of the vessel from Class;
2. A recommendation from the ACS to disenroll the vessel;
3. A recommendation from the OCMI to disenroll the vessel;
4. Invalidation or revocation of one or more of the vessel's international convention certificates;
5. Invalidation or revocation of the vessel's Certificate of Inspection;
6. A pattern of two or more port state control detentions and/or U.S. control actions within a 12 month period, or
7. The vessel is targeted for additional U.S. Coast Guard oversight for more than two consecutive years based on performance monitoring and risk assessments.

1.12.3. CONSIDERATION PROCESS FOR PORT STATE CONTROL DETENTIONS

Owners/operators aggrieved by a port state control detention may provide associated mitigating factors in writing to Commandant (CG-CVC) within 30 days of the detention. Commandant (CG-CVC) will assess the factors leading to the detention and weigh them against how a similar discrepancy would have been evaluated by the U.S. Coast Guard on a U.S. flag vessel. In rare cases, Commandant (CG-CVC) may suspend using a port state control detention as criteria for involuntary disenrollment.

1.13. POST DISENROLLMENT STANDARDS

Post disenrollment standards will be in accordance with Enclosure (3).

1.14. APPEALS UNDER MSP SELECT

1.14.1. APPEALING ACS DECISIONS PERTAINING TO ACS RULES

The ACS will specify the procedures to follow in order to file the appeal. The decision of the ACS regarding application of ACS rules is final. The ACS classification society will notify Commandant (CG-CVC) and the MSC of its decision.

1.14.2. APPEALING ACS DECISIONS PERTAINING TO INTERNATIONAL CODES AND CONVENTIONS

The owner/operator of a MSP Select vessel aggrieved by an ACS' decision on matters involving international codes and conventions are encouraged to resolve the matter at the most immediate level practicable (i.e., with the attending surveyor or surveyor-in-charge).

If the issue is not resolved at the lowest level, the owner/operator must first appeal the matter to the ACS. The ACS will specify the procedures to be followed in order to file the appeal. If resolution is achieved, the ACS will notify the U.S. Coast Guard of its decision.

Failing resolution with the ACS, the owner/operator may appeal the matter to Commandant (CG-CVC) as outlined in 46 CFR 1.03. CG-CVC will rule on the appeal and provide the owner/operator and the ACS a decision in writing. All decisions of Commandant are final.