



CG-CVC
Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance

MI Notice 08-12
December 11, 2012

Marine Inspection Notice

PROCEDURAL CLARIFICATION: PORT OF REGISTRY

The purpose of this Marine Inspection Notice is to provide clarification for the consistent use of “Port of Registry” on the Certificate of Inspection, Certificate of Documentation (COD), and certificates required by various international instruments.

The "Port of Registry" for SOLAS, MARPOL, or other international certificates should be the “Hailing Port” as indicated on the COD and so marked upon the stern of the vessel and lifesaving appliances. The only exception is for public vessels (e.g. Maritime Administration and Military Sealift Command) where there is no requirement to indicate the “Port of Registry” on any Statement of Voluntary Compliance. This field may be indicated as “N/A.”

With the implementation of the Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR), the terms “Port of Registration” and “Hailing Port” became interchangeable. Accordingly, the “Port of Registry” as indicated on international certificates should align with the “Hailing Port” as listed in block 5 of the CSR, as applicable. Further, this arrangement conforms to the relevant criteria detailed in the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme administered by IHS Fairplay. This practice ensures consistency across the suite of international certificates to mitigate potential Port State Control action.

International certificates issued under the authority of the United States should be reviewed and amended as necessary at the next annual attendance to ensure full harmonization of “Port of Registry.” The Marine Safety Manual and Enclosure 3 of Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 1-09 will be updated to reflect this clarification. Recognized classification societies authorized to perform delegated functions on behalf of the United States should ensure that the relevant process instructions and country files are revised accordingly.

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to LT Cory Heard, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, Commandant (CG-CVC) at 202-372-1208.