

Republic of the Marshall Islands

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 33-20

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: EUROPEAN UNION ENFORCEMENT OF INVENTORY OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Date: 26 October 2020

The European Commission has issued [guidelines](#) on its enforcement of the requirement for ships to carry an Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) and appropriate certification under the European Union (EU) Ship Recycling Regulation (SRR).¹ The guidance is for use by EU Port State Control (PSC) beginning 1 January 2021.

Importantly, the guidance does not change the date for compliance with the SRR. It merely acknowledges that the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic has made it difficult for ships to meet their IHM obligations, and that they may not have the required certification by the 31 December 2020 deadline. To ensure a harmonized approach by EU Member States, the guidance recommends that EU PSC apply the guidelines temporarily for six months (i.e., until 30 June 2021).

The guidelines address two specific scenarios, both of which the professional judgement of PSC on a case-by-case basis is central to their outcome. They are as follows:

1. vessels without a valid IHM and/or accompanying certificate; and
2. vessels with a semi-completed IHM with an associated Inventory Certificate or the Statement of Compliance that does not contain on-board (either targeted or random) sampling.

The guidelines also provide that “remote survey/sampling could be exceptionally accepted, if there is evidence that the flag State has agreed to this” and “there would also have to be documented plans and arrangements kept on-board the ship indicating when it will be feasible for qualified samplers to complete the IHM with respect to limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator highly encourages all RMI-flagged vessels to which the EU SRR applies to make every effort to comply with its requirements by the 31 December 2020 deadline. Vessels that can not comply will need to provide the documentation outlined in the guidance to EU PSC. It should be noted that if the inspector does not accept the evidence provided by the owner/Master, this could result in a PSC warning to the vessel with the inspection result and warning registered in the ship recycling module of THETIS – EU.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on ship recycling.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.