



Antigua and Barbuda Maritime Administration

Miscellaneous Circular
No. 2023-002
Rev 1
29 June 2023

SUBJECT: Australian Ports - Measures to mitigate port State control actions and detentions

REFERENCE:

- a) *Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act (MSA) 2006 and related Regulations (Statutory Instruments, Directives and Circulars, as applicable)*
- b) [Miscellaneous Circular 2014-004](#) *Port State Control Inspection Reporting and Flag State follow up*
- c) [Miscellaneous Circular 2020-002](#) *AMSA – Port State Control Regime Pre-Arrival Checklist for Vessels calling to Australian ports*
- d) [Miscellaneous Circular 2022-001](#) *Preparation for Port State Control Inspections*

TO: Ship-owners, operators, masters and officers of Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships, and recognized organizations

1. PURPOSE

This Circular provides information for shipping companies, operators and Masters on the measures to mitigate the effects of port State control (PSC) actions and detentions, when in Australian ports.

2. APPLICATION

This Circular applies to all Antigua and Barbuda flagged ships.

3. BACKGROUND

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has communicated that it supports flag States, such as Antigua and Barbuda performing additional flag State inspections on ships operating under its flag and visiting Australian ports.

The flag will take the lead in actively assessing the vessel for compliance with the relevant requirements. AMSA may assist the flag in this process and may refrain from conducting a port State control inspection. However, an AMSA surveyor may still attend and advise the flag State inspector of any issues they may note.

4. OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Please contact the Antigua and Barbuda flag's Inspection Division (ADOMS IID) at adomsiid@marcare.de prior to your ship's arrival at the first Australian port on your voyage, to arrange attendance of a flag State inspector. A copy of the completed AMSA - PSC Regime Prearrival Checklist (countersigned by company DPA) should accompany this request.

2. The Antigua and Barbuda flag, through its Inspection Division (ADOMS IID) will advise the shipowner, operator and Master by email and AMSA by email at psc@amsa.gov.au that an attendance has been arranged and will describe the related inspection details/procedures and the purpose of such attendance.
3. The Antigua and Barbuda flag State inspector will inspect the ship to verify compliance using the flag inspection report form, but with particular focus on the common port State control deficiencies, as identified by AMSA, with the main deficiencies being ISM related, under the ISM Code.
 1. Fire dampers
 2. Emergency fire pump
 3. Fire main isolation valve
 4. Lifeboats - engines and hook/release system
 5. Emergency generator
 6. Ballast tank vents
 7. Hatch covers and Load Line Conditions of Assignment
 8. Oily water separator (OWS)
 9. Hours of rest and fatigue
4. Flag State inspectors are expected to also carry out operational checks of equipment and assess the level of equipment maintenance.
5. They will also check the level of communication with the company office ashore, through the company DPA (designated person ashore under the ISM Code), including a review of the onboard ISM audit reports.
6. If deficiencies are found, the flag State inspector, or ADOMS IID is to communicate them to AMSA at reports@amsa.gov.au
7. At this point, ADOMS IID will provide the Master with the necessary requirements that must be met, prior to departure and will apply the appropriate controls, to ensure that any deficiencies are rectified, prior to departure from Australia.
8. Before any flag temporary permissions, or exemptions can be issued, ADOMS IID will first need to contact AMSA, in order to provide a unified set of requirements.
9. In cases where the flag State inspector attends at the same time as the AMSA port State control officer (PSCO), the flag State inspector will take the lead in assessing the ship for compliance with relevant requirements and the AMSA PSCO will advise the flag State inspector of any issues they may note.
10. Port State Control Inspection guidance is provided in the referenced Miscellaneous Circulars found on the ADOMS website <https://abregistry.ag/information-center/circulars>

Issued by

Antigua and Barbuda
Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping
(ADOMS) St. John's