

# MARINE SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

## TIER I – POLICY

### ISSUANCE OF VESSEL INSPECTION CERTIFICATES

#### 1 Policy Objective

- 1.1 The objective of this policy is to provide guidance to Marine Safety Inspectors and to Recognized Organizations as to the process for issuing inspection-related Canadian maritime documents, including their periodicity.

#### 2 Policy Statement

- 2.1 Part 4 of the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* requires Canadian vessels which are subject to periodic inspection (annual, quadrennial, or quinquennial) to carry valid Canadian maritime documents (CMDs) on board. These CMDs must be appropriate for the vessel, its type of operation, and its voyage.
- 2.2 Vessel Authorized Representatives (or designates) must request an inspection in order to have their CMDs renewed. Transport Canada Marine Safety will ensure that a Marine Safety Inspector is available at the appointed time, in accordance with its service standards.
- 2.3 Voyage limitations are based on the definitions in the *Vessel Certificates Regulations*. If, in the opinion of the inspector, there are compelling safety reasons, he or she may further limit the permitted voyage on the CMD.
- 2.4 Vessels enrolled in the Delegated Statutory Inspection Program must contact their Recognized Organization to obtain an inspection.
- 2.5 Vessels subject to the SOLAS Convention will be inspected in accordance with the requirements of the Convention. Certificate periodicity for SOLAS Convention vessels is indicated in the *Vessel Certificates Regulations*.
- 2.6 Transport Canada Marine Safety (TCMS) currently issues most inspection certificates on an annual, quadrennial or quinquennial basis. While TCMS has indicated that it intends to harmonize its regulations with international practices to the extent possible. Accordingly, a five year certificate with annual endorsements will be issued to Canadian non-passenger vessels when the *Vessel Certificates Regulations* are updated. Transport Canada Marine Safety will continue to issue quadrennial certificates until the regulations have been updated.
- 2.7 In the interim, Recognized Organizations may create their own domestic certificates for non-passenger vessels in accordance with the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification, subject to the approval of Transport

Canada Marine Safety. Regulatory references on domestic certificates must be to Canadian regulations. An MTRB decision will not be required to issue these certificates.

### **3 Scope**

- 3.1 This policy applies to inspection-related Canadian maritime documents issued by Transport Canada Marine Safety and by organizations authorized by the Minister of Transport.

### **4 Authority**

- 4.1 This policy comes under the overall administrative authority of the Director General, Marine Safety, and the Marine Safety Executive (MSE) committee has approved this policy for general application.

### **5 Responsibility/ further information**

- 5.1 The Director, Domestic Vessel Regulatory Oversight is accountable for the development, implementation, maintenance, and continuous improvement of the policy.

- 5.2 For further information, please contact:

Manager, Flag State Inspection Standards  
AMSA  
330 Sparks St., Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N8  
Phone: 613-991-3142  
Email: [insp.stand-norm.insp@tc.gc.ca](mailto:insp.stand-norm.insp@tc.gc.ca)

### **6 Related Documents**

- 6.1 *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*
- 6.2 *Vessel Certificates Regulations*
- 6.3 *International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS Convention)*
- 6.4 Tier II Procedure – Issuance of Vessel Inspection-Related Canadian maritime documents
- 6.5 Tier III Work Instruction – Issuance of Non-Convention Canadian maritime documents After a Vessel Inspection

### **7 Background**

- 7.1 The *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* does not specify the period for which Vessel Certificates shall be issued. The *Vessel Certificates Regulations* state that the Minister may impose terms on the issuance of Canadian maritime documents, but they do not specify periodicity.

7.2 For vessels with SOLAS certificates, sections 3 to 7 of the *Vessel Certificates Regulations* refer to Regulation 12 of Chapter 1 of SOLAS. The periodicity indicated in Regulation 14 of SOLAS also applies to these vessels.

## **8 Date of Application**

8.1 This policy will come into force on July 6, 2012, and replaces an earlier version of the policy, approved in 2007.

## **9 Date for Review or Expiry**

9.1 This policy is to be reviewed after 12 months and again upon publication of the updated *Vessel Certificates Regulations*.

## **10 RDIMS Reference**

10.1 The English version of this document is saved in RDIMS under reference number 7382148.

10.2 La version française du présent document est dans le SGDDI et porte le numéro de référence 7586640.

10.3 This document replaces the earlier version saved under RDIMS number 2310790.

## **11 Keywords**

- Periodicity
- Vessel Certificates
- Canadian maritime document
- Vessel Certificates Regulation
- International voyages