



CIRCULAR no. 8/2004

Category

Operational

Nautical

Technical

Other

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Sign. P.M. Indreiede

Issue: GUIDELINES FOR UNSCHEDULED INSPECTIONS

THE NORWEGIAN MARITIME DIRECTORATE

- RECALLING Agreement of 1 June 2002 between The Ministry of Trade and Industry and Recognized Organizations concerning surveys of ships registered in a Norwegian Ship register including annexes as amended.
- REVOKING Circular no. 11/1991

1. Introduction

Pursuant to the Seaworthiness Act, all Norwegian flagged ships are subject to unscheduled inspections. Whenever the Control Authorities find cause to do so, they shall make a thorough inspection of the ship concerned to determine whether it is seaworthy, equipped and manned in accordance with the acts and regulations in force.

Unscheduled inspections may take place at any time and shall comprise anything that may influence the seaworthiness of the ship, safety of personnel and environment, safety management and security and may apply to any part of the ship, its machinery, boilers, lifeboats, equipment, cargo, manning etc. It is the duty of the ship-owner or his representative to assist at such inspections.

The Recognized Organizations (RO) shall, as a part of the general authorization given in the agreement between the ROs and the Norwegian Authorities, make unscheduled inspections, as considered appropriate, onboard ships to which the same authorization applies.

The Norwegian Maritime Directorate (NMD) may also instruct a RO to make unscheduled inspections.

When carrying out unscheduled inspections all possible efforts shall be made to avoid a ship being unduly detained or delayed.

Unscheduled inspections, as well as other activities carried out by RO and their surveyors pursuant to the general or special authorization, are carried out on behalf of the NMD and not as representatives of their own organization.

Pursuant to the Seaworthiness Act and the Public Administration Act, employees of RO are bound by the same pledge of secrecy and have the same liability as NMD officials when carrying out work on behalf of the NMD.

2. Selection of ships

In order to achieve approximately the same safety standards for all ships registered in NIS, irrespective of the RO involved, the following guidelines should apply:

- Unscheduled inspections, should be carried out on approximately 10% of the average number of delegated NIS and NOR ships per year
- When deemed appropriate, unscheduled inspections can be initiated by the surveyor in charge in combination with other services onboard by the ROs.
- The selection of ships appropriate for unscheduled inspections, should be made by the Head Office of RO considering all information indicating that the vessel may have been poorly maintained or operated.
- NMD may in addition request unscheduled inspections of specific ships.

3. Extent of inspections

3.1. *Unscheduled inspection initiated by Surveyor on board or RO Head Office*

At every unscheduled inspection, the surveyor shall verify that the manning, their qualifications and the conditions for the specified manning are in accordance with the manning certificate. In addition the validity of all statutory certificates to be verified

Recommendations and conditions related to class and statutory certificates are also to be surveyed.

Further, the surveyor shall in general carry out a sighting survey with the extent of one of the annual surveys: the Annual General Survey, the statutory part of the mandatory Annual Survey, or the Annual Load line Survey. The surveyor may select which of the annual surveys he will carry out, or he may carry out a general sighting survey of items subject to other statutory certificates.

3.2. *Unscheduled Inspections requested by NMD*

The extent to be decided by NMD in each separate case.

4. Reporting

4.1. *Unscheduled inspection*

The extent, outcome and possible recommendations resulting from an unscheduled inspection to be reported in accordance with the normal practice of the society for the type of inspection carried out.

Unscheduled inspections shall be reported to the NMD yearly within end of January. The report shall give a summary of vessels attended with a short listing of deficiencies and/or conditions of class that were issued. Unscheduled inspections with no deficiencies found, shall be included in the report.

4.2. *Unscheduled Inspections requested by NMD*

Reporting to be decided by NMD in each separate case.

5. *Unscheduled inspections carried out by NMD*

5.1. *Information to RO*

If time and circumstances permit, a local surveyor from the RO concerned will be invited to attend the inspection of the ship together with the NMD surveyor.

The list of possible deficiencies will be given to the local surveyor or forwarded to the RO head office.

If evaluation of the report by NMD leads to further recommendations, a final report will be forwarded to RO as soon as possible.

6. *Fees*

6.1. *Unscheduled inspection*

No fee to be charged, except for resurveys resulting from deficiencies observed under the unscheduled inspection, which are to be charged according to the ROs' normal practice for such surveys.

6.2. *Unscheduled inspections requested by NMD*

Fee to be charged NMD according to the NMD tariff of fees in force at the time in question.