

Alexander Arnfinn Olsen · Fidaa Karkori

# Ship's Officer's Guide to Port State Control

Responsibilities and Procedures

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# **Synthesis Lectures on Ocean Systems Engineering**

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## Definitions

**Bulk carrier:** While noting the definitions in SOLAS 1974, regulations IX/1.6 and XII/1.1 and resolution MSC.277(85), for the purposes of Port State Control, Port State Control Officers should be guided by the vessel's type indicated in the vessel's certificates in determining whether a vessel is a bulk carrier and recognise that a vessel which is not designated as a bulk carrier as the vessel type on the vessel certificate may carry certain bulk cargo as provided for in the above instruments.

**Clear grounds:** Evidence that the vessel, its equipment, or its crew do not correspond substantially with the requirements of the relevant conventions or that the vessel's master or crew members are not familiar with essential shipboard procedures relating to the safety of vessels or the prevention of pollution.

**Deficiency:** A condition found not to be compliant with the requirements of the relevant convention.

**Detention:** Intervention action taken by the Port State when the condition of the vessel or its crew does not correspond substantially with the relevant conventions to ensure that the vessel will not sail until it can proceed to sea without presenting a danger to the vessel or persons on board, or without presenting an unreasonable threat of harm to the marine environment, whether such action will affect the normal schedule of the departure of the vessel.

**Initial inspection:** A visit on board a vessel to check the validity of the relevant certificates and other documents, the overall condition of the vessel, its equipment and its crew.

**More detailed inspection:** An inspection conducted when there are "clear grounds", as defined above.

**Nearest appropriate and available repair yard:** A port where follow-up action can be taken, and it is in, or closest to, the port of detention or the port where the vessel is authorised to proceed accounting for the cargo on board.

**Port State Control Officer (PSCO):** A person duly authorised by the competent authority of a Party to a relevant convention to carry out Port State Control inspections, and responsible exclusively to that Party.

**Recognised organisation (RO):** An organisation that meets the relevant conditions set forth in the Code for Recognised Organisations (RO Code) (MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65)) and has been assessed and authorised by the Flag State Administration in accordance with provisions of the RO Code to provide the necessary statutory services and certification to vessels entitled to fly its Flag.

**Stoppage of an operation:** Formal prohibition against a vessel to continue an operation due to an identified deficiency or deficiencies which, unilaterally or together, render the continuation of such operation hazardous.

**Substandard vessel:** A vessel whose hull, machinery, equipment or operational safety is substantially below the standards required by the relevant convention or whose crew is not in conformity with the safe manning document.

**Valid certificates:** A certificate that has been issued, electronically or on paper, directly by a Party to a relevant convention or on its behalf by an RO, contains accurate and effective dates, meets the provisions of the relevant convention and to which the particulars of the vessel, its crew and its equipment correspond.

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADA	Alternative design and arrangements
AFS	Anti-fouling System
AIS	Automatic Identification System
ASP	Application Service Provider
BDN	Bunker Delivery Notes
BWM	Ballast water management
CLC 1969	International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969
CLC PROT 1992	International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969, as amended
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CoC	Certificate of Competency
COF	Certificate of Fitness
COLREG 1972	Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972
CoP	Certificate of Proficiency
COW	Crude oil washing
CRA	Confirmation of Receipt of Application
CRB	Cargo Record Book
CSS	Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing
DOC	Document of Compliance
DSC	Digital Selective Calling
ECA	Emission Control Area
ECDIS	Electronic Chart Display and Information System
EGCS	Exhaust Gas Cleaning System
EIAPP	Engine International Air Pollution Prevention Certificates
EOW	Engineer of the Watch