



G-B INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL SHIPS REGISTRY OF GUINEA-BISSAU

Marine Notice Nr. 04/2024, 26/08/2024

Subject: “Joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (C.I.C.) Paris and Tokyo MoU on Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreements (MLC, 2006) (Sept. – Nov. 2024)”

Reference:

(a) Press Release of Paris MoU & Tokyo MoU Joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (C.I.C.) on Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreements (MLC, 2006), 1st August 2024 (<https://parismou.org/>).

(b) G-B I.S.R. MAR CIR 03/2024: Paris MoU PSC Policy – Mandatory Pre-Arrival Notification for G-B I.S.R. Vessels Entering Paris MOU Region Ports and Submission of Pre-arrival Check List to the G-B I.S.R. (Operations Department): Marine Circular Nr. 03/2024 – 21/08/2024 / Pre-arrival checklist for Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry (G-B I.S.R.) flagged vessels (MAR CIR 03-2024) <https://gbisr.com/marine-circulars/>

To: Deputy Registrars, Recognized Organizations, Flag State Surveyors, Shipowners, Ship Operators, Ship Managers, and Ship Masters of the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry.

Summary: *The Member Authorities of the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda of Understanding on Port State Control (PSC) have initiated a Joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (C.I.C.) commencing on 1 September and concluding on 30 November 2024. The campaign aims to enhance industry awareness of and compliance with the crew wages and seafarer employment agreement requirements stipulated in the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006 Other MoUs may participate also in the campaign. This inspection campaign will be additional to the regular PSC inspections. G-B I.S.R. herewith adopts concrete binding recommendations for G-B I.S.R. vessels operating within the Paris and Tokyo MoUs for preventing detentions during the Joint Concentrated Inspections Campaigns (C.I.C.) on Port State Control.*

1. Objective

1.1. The Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry (G-B I.S.R.) utilizing this Marine Notice aims to prevent detentions during the Joint Concentrated Inspections Campaigns (C.I.C.) on Port State Control and inform G-B I.S.R. stakeholders of the impending Joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (C.I.C.) on crew wages and seafarer employment agreements to be conducted by the Tokyo and Paris MOUs. To mitigate the risk of vessel detention, G-B I.S.R. strongly recommends strict adherence to the provisions of the Maritime Labor Convention (MLC), 2006, on crew wages, seafarer employment agreements, and financial securities with MLC relevance.

2. MoU CIC Campaign Background

2.1. In general, Concentrated Inspection Campaigns (C.I.C.) target specific areas at a higher risk of non-compliance. This risk may be indicated by the number of deficiencies found, accidents, or the implementation of new convention requirements. CICs are carried out annually over three months (September to November) and are conducted alongside regular inspections.

2.2. As per current practice each year, PSC regimes identify a specific focus area to be checked during regular inspections. For the current year, as indicated above the Paris and Tokyo MoUs agreed to run a CIC on the topic of crew wages and Seafarer Employment Agreements under MLC. It is expected that the financial security requirements under the 2014 amendments to the MLC are also covered by this CIC.

2.3. The inspection campaign will span three months, commencing on 1 September 2024 and concluding

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on 30 November 2024. The campaign will entail a focused examination of crew wages, seafarer employment agreements (SEAs), and financial securities (repatriation and shipowners' liability) as outlined in the MLC, 2006, in conjunction with routine Port State Control inspections. It is imperative to note that each vessel will undergo a single inspection within the campaign period.

3. CIC on Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreements under MLC (September to November 2024)

3.1. As outlined above, the 2024 Joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) undertaken by the Tokyo and Paris MOUs Port State Control regimes has been initiated to foster industry awareness regarding the requirements for crew wages and seafarer employment agreements as prescribed by the MLC, 2006, and to verify compliance with these stipulations. The campaign will encompass a detailed examination of crew wages, seafarer employment agreements, and financial securities as outlined in the MLC, 2006.

3.2. Specifically, the CIC focuses on compliance with the owners' responsibility to ensure the basic rights of seafarers on board the ship under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC). Following the MLC requirements, crew members must be consistently provided with accurate information and contracts.

3.3. It is expected that Port State Control inspectors will closely examine compliance with MLC requirements on minimum wage, timely payment of wages, and transparency of wage calculations. Seafarer employment agreements will be scrutinized to ensure they align with MLC standards on contract terms, working hours, leave entitlements, and repatriation provisions.

4. MoU CIC Questionnaire on Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreements (MLC, 2006)

4.1. Port State Control Offices (PSCOs) will employ a standardized questionnaire developed by the Tokyo and Paris MOUs to assess adherence to the MLC requirements about crew wages, seafarer employment agreements, and financial securities. (see a/ the attached in electronic format CIC electronic questionnaire and b/ the relevant indicative best practices guidance on how to comply with the requirement of this new CIC).

4.2. The CIC questionnaire will be used to facilitate the adequate preparation of those involved. Under the released information the 10-question checklist covering the functionality and smooth flow of Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreements is attached.

4.3. Given the direct correlation between the MLC requirements and the company's safety management system (SMS), any deficiencies in compliance related to this CIC may also lead to an ISM-related deficiency as a supplementary ground for detention.

5. Infringement Actions by MoUs PSC Authorities

5.1. In the event of non-conformities, Port State authorities may impose various actions, ranging from the recording of deficiencies with associated rectification deadlines to vessel detention until serious deficiencies are rectified or a satisfactory corrective action plan is approved. Vessels subject to detention will be publicized in the monthly detention lists of the Tokyo and Paris MOU websites. The campaign outcomes, as per standing practice, are expected to be subjected to rigorous analysis, and the findings will be presented to the governing bodies of both MOUs for potential submission to the International Labor Organization and the International Maritime Organization.



6. G-B I.S.R. General Recommendations

6.1. The G-B I.S.R. strongly encourages ship operators to leverage this CIC as an opportunity to reaffirm their unwavering commitment to full compliance with the crew wages and seafarer employment agreement provisions enshrined in the MLC, 2006. Managers, manning offices, officers, and crew onboard should be prepared to successfully address the PSC CIC. Crew departments must verify that all relevant documentation for the onboard crew is available to the Master for presentation to the PSCO. Allotments and wage payments should comply with the requirements of the Seafarer's Employment Agreement. Wage or salary payments to seafarers must be made at intervals no greater than monthly. Each crew member should have an original copy of their SEA ready for inspection by the PSCO (see attached Indicative Best Practice Guidance on Inspection Campaign Questionnaire).

7. Action Required from Owners, ISM Operators, Flag Inspectors, and Recognized Organizations during the Concentrated Inspection Campaign for Vessels Operating in Tokyo and Paris MOUs

7.1. ISM Operators: For all vessels currently trading within the Tokyo and Paris MOUs, ISM operators need to contact the Master to complete the attached Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) questionnaire on Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreements (MLC, 2006). The completed CIC questionnaire must be submitted by ISM operators to the G-B I.S.R. Flag Administration, if possible, no later than 31 August 2024. Owners/Operators will submit the completed and duly signed/stamped CIC questionnaire by the Master to G-B I.S.R. Operational Department (at ops@gbi-lb.org).

7.2. Flag State Inspectors/Surveyors: Flag Inspections, as prescribed by MAR CIR 03-2024 (G-B I.S.R. Paris MoU PSC Policy – Mandatory Pre-Arrival Notification for G-B I.S.R. Vessels Entering Paris MOU Region Ports and Submission of Pre-arrival Check List to the G-B I.S.R. (Operations Department), will include the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreements (MLC, 2006). The CIC questionnaire will be completed in conjunction with the Master to ensure that the vessel's condition and crew comply with the CIC requirements. Additionally, any deficiencies found concerning the CIC questionnaire must be reported to the G-B I.S.R. – Operations Department immediately.

7.3. Recognized Organizations: Recognized Organizations conducting statutory surveys upon the publication of the current Mar Notice must incorporate the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Crew Wages and Seafarer Employment Agreements (MLC, 2006) into their inspection procedures. During these statutory surveys, the CIC questionnaire should be completed in conjunction with the standard MLC inspections for all G-B I.S.R. registered vessels. Recognized Organizations are required to promptly report any deficiencies related to the CIC questionnaire to the Flag Administration. Following the completion of the statutory survey, the Recognized Organizations must submit the CIC questionnaire, duly signed and stamped by the Master, to G-B I.S.R. - Operations Department (at ops@gbi-lb.org).

8. Inquires

8.1. Any inquiries relating to this Marine Notice may be addressed to the G-B I.S.R – Operation Department (Email: ops@gbi-lb.org, Tel.: +30 210 4537950, +30 210 4537194).



G-B INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL SHIPS REGISTRY OF GUINEA-BISSAU

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar

Attached (in electronic form)

1. The Paris and Tokyo MOUs' Press Release and official CIC Questionnaire (p.3)
2. Indicative Best Practice Guidance on Inspection Campaign Questionnaire (p.3)

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