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PRESS RELEASE

CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN (CIC) ON FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS ARRANGEMENTS

The six member Authorities of the (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine) of the Black Sea Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control will start a concentrated inspection campaign on Fire Safety Systems. The three-month campaign will start on September 1, 2012 and end on November 30, 2012 under the co-ordination of the Romanian Naval Authority. The campaign shall be conducted simultaneously with the Paris MOU, Tokyo MOU and other MOUs

During the campaign period, member Authorities of the BS MOU will inspect, within the resources available, as many ships as possible in conjunction with routine port State control inspections, the fire safety arrangements; maintenance records and other applicable documentation will be verified in in more detail for compliance with SOLAS Chapter II-2 on all vessels regardless of type. Furthermore CIC is aimed to verify that the fire fighting equipment is readily available and maintained at all times, the master, officers and crew are familiar with equipment and have received training in carrying out their duties.

For the purpose of interregional harmonization of the action, the Black Sea MOU will use the model of relevant Questionnaire developed by the Paris & Tokyo MOUs with a checklist of 12 selected areas for the shipboard fire safety systems, some of which are related to documentation, equipment and crew familiarisation.

If deficiencies are found, actions by the Port State Control Officer may vary from recording a deficiency and instructing the master to rectify it within a certain period to detaining the ship until serious deficiencies have been rectified. All inspections will be inserted in the Black Sea Information System and will be published on-line and in the monthly detention of the BS MOU.

The results of the campaign shall be analysed and finding will be presented to the Black Sea MOU Committee for submission to the IMO.

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