



February 18, 2020

CSI Notice to Clients 01-2020

SUBJECT: Changes to the U.S. Coast Guard Port State Control Targeting Matrix

The U.S. Coast Guard recently released an internal Work Instruction outlining changes to their Port State Control (PSC) matrix used to determine which ships they intend to inspect. The Coast Guard indicated the reasoning behind this change is that the detention rate has dropped to 1% and two thirds of examinations in recent years have yielded no deficiencies.

The Coast Guard said they analyzed the factors used in the targeting matrix and updated the process to prioritize their resources on examinations that pose the greatest risk, while simultaneously reducing the frequency/scope of examinations they feel pose the lowest level of risk.

In years past, the Coast Guard used the annual exam date for vessels with a good PSC history and this was extended for vessels meeting and complying with the QUALSHIP 21 Initiative. The updated program eliminates the “Priority” system and will now encompass three types of PSC exams to determine when the exam will be completed and the depth of the inspection:

- PSC A: Detailed exam
- PSC B: Standard exam
- PSC C: Not targeted for an exam, but subject to a random examination by the Coast Guard, which can result in either a PSC A or B exam based on their review of the vessel.

The targeting criteria are ‘graded’ as follows:

- USCG PSC history: How the vessel calling to the U.S. performed during the previous Coast Guard PSC exams.
- Flag State performance: Flag States are placed on the targeted list if their detention ratio is higher than the overall average. The Flag State detention ratios are averaged over three-year periods. They can be removed from the targeted list if their annual detention ratio falls below the overall average, or their fleet maintains less than two Coast Guard detentions in the past three years.
- Ship Management performance (to include the vessel’s owner, operator, charterer or managing operator): If any of these entities are linked to two or more Coast Guard detentions in the past year, they will be added to the targeted list. To be removed from the list, they need to maintain less than two Coast Guard detentions in the past 12 months.



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For operators that maintain a large fleet (more than 25 vessels in which each one of those vessels made at least one port call to the U.S. in the past 12 months) the operator can participate in the Large Fleet Designation Program that increases the number of allowable detentions in an annual period.

- Recognized Organization Performance: Very similar to the way Flag State performance is calculated.

- History of Compliance: There are five new factors that play into this element:
 - Major control actions in the U.S. which include detentions and expulsions;
 - Foreign detentions in other countries (Paris or Tokyo MOU);
 - History of major deficiencies recorded by the Coast Guard;
 - Captain of the Port (COTP) Orders, which include Letters of Deviation (LOD);
 - Reportable Marine Casualties and Marine Violations.

- Ship Particulars: Vessel's class / type of service, and the age of the vessel.

This new update continues to give each COTP discretion in prioritizing resources in relation to safety and security risk to each port. If you are seeking more detailed information as referenced in this Advisory, please refer to the Coast Guard's web site as follows:

<https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Inspections-Compliance-CG-5PC-/Commercial-Vessel-Compliance/Foreign-Offshore-Compliance-Division/>

This matrix change should not affect the way your crew prepare for a Coast Guard PSC exam. The crew should enjoy the perks of possibly having a relaxed PSC inspection, but they should remain vigilant and prepared for an expanded inspection every time the Coast Guard comes aboard.

Should you have any questions regarding the Coast Guard Port State Control Targeting Matrix please do not hesitate to contact our office at csi@compliancesystemsinc.com or +1 (912) 233-8181.