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MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 30-17

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: CARBON DIOXIDE SYSTEM SAFETY AND INSPECTION INFORMATION

Date: 21 July 2017

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) recently issued Safety Alert 07-17, detailing two (2) recent inspections where USCG Marine Inspectors participated in and witnessed that the testing and maintenance of carbon dioxide (CO₂) systems that resulted in serious safety threats that almost led to loss of lives. The USCG is reminding owners and operators that CO₂ system inspection, testing, and maintenance requires thoughtful planning and risk mitigation efforts to prevent such events from happening.

Specifically, the USCG has noted that both serious instances reflect a lack of knowledge and risk awareness by the persons involved. Therefore, the USCG is strongly recommending:

1. Only persons adequately trained and properly evaluated be permitted to participate in CO₂ testing and maintenance procedures onboard vessels;

2. Every person involved must know and consider the resulting outcomes for each step of the testing procedure prior to it taking place; and

3. Risks associated with CO₂ and other systems should never be underestimated. Risk prevention activities should always lean towards providing the greatest safety margins for those involved, including 100% accountability of all personnel aboard the vessel prior to conducting an operational test of a system.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) reminds owners and operators to remain aware of the risks present and knowledge required for successful and safe CO₂ system inspections, testing, and maintenance. In addition to USCG Safety Alert 07-17, USCG Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular 09-00 contains additional CO₂ safety and inspection information.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.

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