

# Republic of the Marshall Islands

## MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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### MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 25-17

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

**Subject: CHINA CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY ANNOUNCES CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN FOR AGING BULK CARRIERS**

**Date: 13 June 2017**

Due to the recent casualties and structural deficiencies experienced by large, aging bulk carriers, China Classification Society (CCS) announced that the China Maritime Safety Administration (China MSA) will launch a special inspection campaign for large bulk carriers of more than 10,000 gross tonnage (GT), from **15 June 2017 through 31 December 2017**.

In an effort to help ensure the safety of life at sea, bulk carriers **above 15 years of age**, engaged in international voyages will be the priority targets of inspection. Specifically, China MSA expects bulk carriers that were converted from tankers to undergo port State control (PSC) inspection at the first port of call after **15 June 2017**, and then be subsequently inspected per the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

This special inspection shall focus on the ship's structural elements and shall include the following:

- .1 Loading / unloading plan agreed by the ship and terminal (IMO ResA.862(20))
- .2 Approved cargo / ballast operation manual
- .3 ESP documents of bulk carrier (IMO Res. A744(18))
- .4 Thickness measurement reports
- .5 Weathertightness of hatch covers
- .6 Hatch corners and hatch coamings
- .7 Frames/plating of Cargo Spaces
- .8 Bulkhead structures of Cargo Spaces
- .9 Ballast tanks structures

An unofficial, English-language translation of the CCS Information Bulletin 2017/02 is [hyperlinked here](#). Though not currently available, official, detailed translations could be published through [CCS](#) or [China MSA](#) as this special inspection campaign begins. Owners and Operators are advised to review those websites accordingly, which are hyperlinked above.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.