



CASE STUDY

PORT STATE CONTROL CHALLENGE

Regs4ships were requested by the Cook Islands Ship Registry to investigate the circumstances around the detention of a ship following a port state control (PSC) inspection on a Friday after its arrival in port in a Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) PSC area.

The PSC Inspector visited the ship after the pilot had reported a defective compass during its passage to its berth, where he found three deficiencies and placed the ship under detention. The following week after the deficiencies were reported as rectified, two more Inspectors visited the ship and continued the detention on the basis that there was neither fresh milk nor fresh fruit on-board.

The ship was eventually released after nine days detention and Regs4ships were then commissioned by the flag state to investigate the cause of such a lengthy detention.

Our surveyors investigated whether the original inspector had followed the PSC administration's own procedures for detaining ships. We also investigated whether the two deficiencies used for detaining the ship had been used as grounds for detaining ships on previous occasions.

We found from information in the public domain that due process had not been followed when the ship had been detained. We also discovered that the two deficiencies used to detain the ship had been found on 35 inspections of other ships and not led to a detention.

On the one occasion that a ship had been detained with those two deficiencies it had been accompanied by another 18. We also determined that continuing the detention of the ship on the basis of a lack of fresh milk and fruit was disproportionate and did not take account of the national diet of the crew. We advised the flag state to challenge the detention to the Paris MoU.

Regs4ships understand maritime regulations and the difficulties faced by the ship operators. We operate the only database of its kind in the world, providing an up to date and accurate resource of shipping regulations and technical information. Our surveyors have hands-on experience as PSC inspectors and we understand the procedures and the due process they have to follow.

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Our customer, an aspiring flag state who want to improve their PSC performance and encourage quality ships to their register, are pleased to have the specialist assistance to avoid being unnecessarily penalised by PSC Inspectors who are not observing their own due process.

"The PSC detention league tables put increasing pressure on flag states to verify their ship owners' quality of operation."

Richard Eastham, Regs4ships Director

For further information or to obtain a FREE trial please contact us using the details below.

