



## TECHNICAL ALERT No. 17-05

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### Port State Control Special Inspection Campaign in China

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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) has announced a special inspection campaign for bulk carriers of 10,000 gross tonnage and above.
- 1.2. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) welcomes this initiative and urges Companies<sup>1</sup> operating bulk carriers to/from Chinese ports to ensure that they are fully prepared for the special inspection campaign.

#### 2. Background and Objective of Special Inspection Campaign

- 2.1. The special inspection campaign for bulk carriers of 10,000 gross tonnage and above will be conducted in conjunction with Port State Control (PSC) inspections from 15 June 2017 to 31 December 2017.
- 2.2. Recent study shows that a considerable number of structural deficiencies were found on a number of older bulk carriers, therefore China MSA will target bulk carriers that are over 15 years of age as priority targets for their inspection.
- 2.3. All ships that were converted from oil tankers to bulk or ore carriers will also be inspected at the first port of call in China in conjunction with PSC inspections.
- 2.4. The special inspection campaign will focus on the ship's structure and ballast tanks. PSC officers may require the ballast tanks to be opened for internal examination.

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<sup>1</sup> The "Company" is the entity responsible for the management of the ship in accordance with the ISM Code. For ships which the ISM Code is not applicable, the Company is the Managing Owner in accordance with Section 52 of the Bahamas Merchant Shipping Act.

2.5. The special inspection will include the following:

- i. Loading/discharge plans agreed by the ship and terminal (IMO Res. A.862(20));
- ii. Approved cargo/ballast operations manual;
- iii. ESP documentation for bulk carriers (IMO Res. A.744(18));
- iv. Thickness measurement reports;
- v. The weathertightness of hatch covers;
- vi. Hatch corners and hatch coamings;
- vii. Frames/plating in cargo spaces;
- viii. Bulkhead structures in cargo spaces;
- ix. The ballast tank structure.

### **3. Validity**

3.1. This alert is valid until 31 December 2017.

### **4. Revision History**

Rev.0 (28 June 2017) – First issue