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28th January 2019

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INFORMATION NOTE

Dear Sirs,

PSC inspection and fine in Gabon

As the Club's correspondent for Gabon, we take the liberty to forward you the attached documents recently received from Gabonese Merchant Marine and which may be of interest to your Members during future calls at Gabonese ports.

The Merchant Marine has listed all items which could lead, if defective, to a vessel's detention following a PSC inspection by the Gabonese authorities.

As all vessels are subject to a PSC inspection in Gabon we strongly suggest that your Members strictly check the items in the attached list and comply with their Agent's pre-arrival recommendations.

The attached documents refer to detention only, as provided by Abuja MOU in case of vessel's deficiencies.

However, in Gabon PSC inspections often result in huge and unwarranted fines on the vessel which are grounded on local law (vide attached decree N°000103/MMMEP/CAB/DRC).

FYI, further to two cases we faced in 2017 and following the intervention of the Abudja's MOU complaining about these local Merchant Marine's fines, the Gabonese Ministry of Transport suspended these fines for a period of six months as from July 2017.

Unfortunately, after this period we then saw the practice of local fines for vessel's PSC deficiencies slowly resuming.

In November 2018, local Merchant Marine changed their practices and we now understand that they are invoicing some fees (a lump sum of USD 3,000) for their inspection (vide letter attached).

However, it is not certain at this stage whether they intend to stop the practice of fining vessels for alleged deficiencies.

We therefore recommend Members exercise all caution before calling Gabon.

You will note from the attached documents that all Class, official and other documents / certificates etc. must be valid / in date and must be originals (copies are not accepted). All Admiralty charts and other publications must be up-to-dated etc. Safety equipment must be serviceable and tested before arrival.

According to Gabonese Customs, inward / outward port clearance must mention:

- the name of the vessel and that of the Master
- the name of the previous port (for inward clearance) and name of the port of destination (for outward clearance), and the name of the Gabonese port if the vessel is in transit and to load further cargo
- the date of issuance of the clearance and the date of departure of the vessel
- the quantity loaded or discharged
- the flag
- the signature and stamp of the Custom services
- Clearance document must be free of any alteration.

In case of doubt, before arrival, Master should inform his agent in order for him to contact the Merchant Marine or Customs.

We remain at your disposal for any assistance Clubs/Members may need.

Thanks and best regards.

Yours faithfully,



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