

Vanuatu Maritime Services Limited

42 Broadway, Suite 1200-18
New York, New York 10004

Email: email@vanuatuships.com
Website: www.vanuatuships.com

Telephone 212-425-9600
Fax: 212-425-9652

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FLEET / SAFETY LETTER 07090.GEN

RE: PORT STATE CONTROL STATISTICS FOR VANUATU 2004 - 2006

Appended hereto are the statistics for Port State Control activity for Vanuatu vessels as compared to the all ships / all flags averages for 8 of the most active PSC areas in the world.

Vanuatu did very well in 2006, with 2 exceptions, and has done very well through the three year period 2004 through 2006, compared to other flag states. Regrettably, with one detention in 2006 in the US (and one the previous year) Vanuatu lost its place on the **USCG QUALSHIP 21** list. Because the number of Vanuatu ships actually inspected in the US is rather small, the single detention in the US in 2006 of the barge **Canyon Horizon** more than doubled the average detention rate for the three year period. Statistically, that makes it almost impossible for Vanuatu to be eligible for the **QUALSHIP 21** in 2008 even if there are zero detentions in the US in 2007. However, in the US Vanuatu still rated very high during the three year period with a rolling average rate of 1.31% versus the all ships / all flags rate of 1.78%.

There were no detentions in the Paris MOU area in 2006, resulting in a low three year detention rate of 3.28% compared to the all ships / all flags rate of 5.31%. Should this continue through 2007, we anticipate moving to the "white list" in 2008. As it is Vanuatu is only 0.06% away from that list now, attempting to shake off 3 detentions in 2004.

In all other areas of the world, save one, there were no detentions in 2006 resulting in Vanuatu's excellent overall global detention rate. Only in the Mediterranean MOU area, specifically Turkey, were there any other detentions in 2006, when the vessel **M/V Grace** was detained. While the small numbers of Vanuatu ships calling in the Med MOU ports made that single year detention rate seem large, Vanuatu's actual detention rate was still 3 percentage points better than the all ships / all flag average for the year.

And now that we are more than 80% of the way through 2007, how has Vanuatu fared in 2007? To date, there have been 5 detentions, a bit disappointing versus 2006 but, nevertheless, not that bad in the overall scheme of things. These detention include the following vessels in the countries identified:

M/V X-Press Makalu	Singapore	1/8/07
OSV Gulf Fleet 54	Egypt	5/16/07
M/V Acacia Ace	Turkey	6/20/07
F/V Mirelur	Panama	6/14/07
M/V Express	Gibraltar	10/18/07

While we would take this opportunity to remind the owners of above vessels that it is imperative that their vessels meet standards mandated by convention, and by the Vanuatu Maritime Act and Regulations, we also want to salute the owners of all those other Vanuatu vessels, that have not been detained, for contributing to Vanuatu's excellent Port State Control record; for their commitment to safety, security, and the environment; and for maintaining their vessels in accordance with international conventions and national legislation.

If you have any questions or comments contact VMSL New York. Remember, that it is the owners' responsibility to notify Vanuatu if vessels have been detained and to protest unfair or unwarranted detentions directly with the PSC regime which detained the vessel.

Best Regards,

Donald J. Sheetz
Executive Vice President

Encl.

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Email: email@vanuatuships.com