

VANUATU MARITIME SERVICES LIMITED

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October 24, 2012

FLEET / SAFETY LETTER

RE: Vessel Detentions

There have been vessel Detention issues that have arisen this year so far that we at VMSL would like our fleet to be aware of.

- **Record Keeping:** Proper log keeping is essential that vessels are conducting drills, training, inspections, etc as required. As the saying goes "If it wasn't logged, then it wasn't actually done."
- **Training:** It is readily apparent to ASI or PSC inspectors during an on the spot drill if a vessel has not been conducting regular training. Ensure that crews are not just logging the training, but actually conducting the training. Fire and Boat Drills are a weekly requirement for Vanuatu registered vessels. IMO only requires monthly inspections, but we at VMSL hold our vessels to a higher standard. Many incidents are avoided each year because crews know how to respond to an emergency before it becomes a catastrophe.
- **MARPOL:** Failure to carry required oil spill response equipment, updated SOPEP (where applicable) and lack of training is a serious violation. Additionally failing to recognize potential hazards which turn into incidents, can lead to serious fines. Ensure all Masters are cognizant of their duties in this area.
- **Improper Maintenance:** Failing to upkeep lifesaving and fire fighting equipment whether they are structural or portable can lead to a detention. This equipment is necessary for the safety of the vessel. Keeping this equipment in peak operating condition is not just an important regulatory compliance, but also a practice of good seamanship.

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