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UK Flag Statistics

In the most recent quarter of the year (April – June), eighteen merchant vessels joined the fleet: a total of 641,488GT has been added to the Register since 31 December 2015.

This means that during this quarter the UK fleet of vessels of greater than 100 GT has grown by 446,561GT overall and now stands at 15,148,693 GT and 1,329 vessels which represents the highest tonnage total since April 2014. Amongst the companies that have flagged in this year are Atlantic Container Line, North Star Shipping, Zodiac Maritime, Gardline Shipping, Sentinel Marine, Holyhead Towing, Northern Marine

Management, GulfMark UK Ltd and other quality owners. During the last quarter, the 18 vessels joining the Register includes 3 Bulk Carriers, 1 Gas Carrier, 1 Oil/Chemical Tanker, 1 Offshore Supply Vessels, 1 Container Ship, 3 Workboats, 2 Tugs, 1 dredger, 3 Commercial Vessels, 1 Pontoon and 1 Windfarm Service Vessel. The average age of 85% of our fleet 500GT and internationally trading above is 10.20 years.





Paris MOU Performance List

The Paris MoU Performance List 2015 is published and will take effect from 1 July 2015.

The “White, Gray, Black” list covers best performing flags as well as poor performers.

It is based on the total number of inspections and detentions over a 3-year rolling period for flags with at least 30 inspections in the period.

The United Kingdom moved up to second place on the Paris MOU White List out of 43 flags.

This is a great achievement for the UK and proves once again the high standards of the UK flagged vessels.

The full list can be found at www.parismou.org.

REG Conference



For the first time since 2004, the annual conference for the Red Ensign group has been hosted by the UK.

Chaired by Sir Alan Massey, the event, held in Portsmouth, saw delegates from the UK and the 12 UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies which operate British Ship Registers, come together to discuss challenges

and agree the way forward for the group. There was an opportunity to do more relationship building during the formal dinner hosted by the former Shipping Minister, Robert Goodwill.

The event was held against the stunning backdrop of HMS Warrior – part of Britain’s maritime history, she was Britain’s first iron-hulled, armoured warship.



Seawork International 2016

The MCA had a successful, busy Seawork show from June 15th to 17th this year. The stand was visited by boat builders, operators, training organisations, even a Port Chaplain!

Visitors included amongst many others: Hart International, The Environment Agency, SCMS, British

Marine, NWA, Seafish, City Cruises and the National Oceanography Centre.

We had questions on such diverse topics as where Croatian vessels would register their EPIRBs to queries about oil spillage identification testing technology as well as numerous questions about vessel construction standards.

Our staff not only helped these customers with their queries but they also appreciated getting out and about in the show, meeting with Industry contacts and stakeholders.



Posidonia 2016



UKSR representatives attended the Posidonia in Athens along with Lord Mayor of the City of London, Lord Mountevans and former Minister of State for Transport Robert Goodwill MP.

The attendance was high during this event and it represented a great opportunity to meet potential clients and understand our clients' needs better.



New way of working for survey and inspection programme

Plans to make sure there is a full maritime survey and inspection team covering the whole UK, will see more remote working and a slight change to where some of the marine offices are based.

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency has undertaken a review of the way it carries out its surveys and inspections and recently consulted on the locations of its marine offices. It has also, with its staff, reviewed the way the organisation of those offices is structured.

As a result of both consultations, changes have been made to the original proposals including keeping two offices open that were originally marked for closure and

identifying a senior experienced marine surveyor who will have over-arching responsibility for the River Thames.

The proposals save more than a third of a million pounds in terms of estate costs.

Belfast, Liverpool, Cardiff Aberdeen, Plymouth, Southampton, Beverley (Hull) and Glasgow Marine Offices will remain open and a new office will be opened in the Colchester/Ipswich area. These will form the main Marine Office hubs.

Dover, Falmouth and Milford Haven will be satellite bases attached to the main marine office hubs from where they will be managed – Southampton, Plymouth and Cardiff respectively.

The Tyne office will close along with Harwich, Norwich and Orpington.

These changes are part of a much larger transformation programme for its survey and inspection business to improve customer service and efficiency. The proposals, which have been approved by the Executive Board of the MCA, will save money with minimal impact on the MCA survey and inspection work force.



Changes to international Radio Regulations that affect Marine Radio

As you may be aware, the international Radio Regulations have changed to make space for digital marine communications. These regulations come into force from 1/1/2017 and affect the frequencies/channels of marine HF and to marine VHF.

Some radio equipment may not be compatible with these changes.

GMDSS distress and safety communications are not affected.

In line with guidance from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO);

- For HF stations, the MCA is considering the approach necessary for compliance at the 1st mandatory radio survey in 2017. An alternative approach will be considered for vessels not subject to a mandatory survey.
- For VHF, the MCA is considering what conditions will make it necessary in the future for radios to be fully compliant with the changes, bearing in mind that VHF digital rollout is not expected for at least 4 years.

The MCA expects to issue an MGN in the autumn with more detail.

Merchant Shipping Notices

The following link will take you to the [gov.uk website page containing current Merchant Shipping Notices](#) from where you can access those that are relevant to you and your organisation.

Next Newsletter...

...will be issued in November 2016

If you would like to amend your contact details, add colleagues to the newsletter distribution list or have any general feedback then [please email us](#).

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