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LIBERIAN INTERNATIONAL SHIP & CORPORATE REGISTRY

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Liberian registry takes ISPS training and verification initiative

THE Liberian Registry has taken a unique initiative by electing to train its own worldwide network of inspectors to perform verification audits for shipowners, operators and managers under the International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code. It has also decided to approve specific members of the International Association of Classification Societies as competent to carry out ISPS audits on behalf of Liberian-registered vessels.

The Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry has contracted with leading international security specialists to train fifty Liberian inspectors over the next three months in three key locations – North America, Europe and the Far East – in the specialist skills required to perform ISPS and other security audits. The Registry will also be conducting its own Ship Security Plan approvals for the entire Liberian fleet rather than delegating this task.

The Liberian Registry has meanwhile named Det Norske Veritas, Germanischer Lloyd and the American Bureau of Shipping as classification societies which have demonstrated their security-competence as Recognised Security Organisations, as provided for under the ISPS Code.

Scott Bergeron, LISCR's chief operating officer says, "Each of these classification societies has established partnerships with security experts, has developed the necessary internal infrastructure to properly verify compliance with the ISPS Code, and has been approved by the Liberian Administration. We are in the process of working with other IACS members and are prepared to accord them similar approval once they have satisfactorily demonstrated their security competence and their compliance with our requirements.

"The initiatives we have taken with regard to security training will provide owners of Liberian vessels with a choice, and will also serve to increase the pool of qualified auditors."

- The Liberian Registry is one of the world's largest and most active open registers, with a fifty-year track record of combining the highest standards for vessels and crews with the highest standards of responsive service to owners. It is proud to be on the Paris MOU White List of high-standard flags and the top ranked significant registry on the USCG Port State Control rankings. Almost 2,000 vessels of 54 m gt currently fly the Liberian flag.

LISCR recently opened a fully staffed maritime security department as part of its ongoing commitment to improving security in the international shipping industry. The maritime security department will help with the implementation of the ISPS Code requirements. It will also be responsible for the approval of each ship's security plan and for co-ordination of the Liberian Registry's onboard verification surveys/audits as mandated by the ISPS Code.

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