

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 53-17

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: CLOSING ARRANGEMENTS OF CARGO HATCH COVERS

Date: 27 December 2017

ClassNK has issued ClassNK Port State Control (PSC) Bulletin No. [NK-PSC-13](#), *Closing Arrangements of Cargo Hatch Covers*, dated 22 December 2017

ClassNK notes that PSC inspections of hatch covers includes not only gaskets, but also the condition of the closing devices. Conditions such as seizing/damaged/missing cleats, damage/wastage of cleat crutches, which may result in the hatch covers not being securely closed, are to be identified as deficiencies. Further, in those cases where it is judged that the deficiency can be identified as a lack of implementation of the ship's Safety Management System, such deficiency could lead to grounds for a detention.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator is advising that the operators and crew of vessels with hatch covers pay close attention to the condition of hatch cover securing devices and conduct regularly scheduled visual inspections and follow-up with appropriate service maintenance as may be required.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.