

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENTS AND MEASURES
TO ENCOURAGE FLAG STATE COMPLIANCE**

Shipping Industry Flag State Performance Table, 2012

Submitted by ICS and ISF

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document contains information about the latest Shipping Industry Flag State Performance Table, 2012
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	
<i>High-level action:</i>	
<i>Planned output:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 8
<i>Related documents:</i>	None

1. The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Shipping Federation (ISF) have updated their annual 'Shipping Industry Flag State Performance Table' which can be downloaded from the homepage of the ICS website (www.ics-shipping.org).

2. Except where indicated, the Table uses information derived from the public domain as at June 2012. When using the Table, however, it is important to read it in conjunction with the explanatory notes.

3. The Table is intended to encourage shipowners to maintain a dialogue with their flag administrations to effect any improvements that might be necessary in the interests of safety of life at sea, protection of the marine environment and the provision of decent working conditions for seafarers. The Table can therefore be seen as a complement to the IMO Voluntary Member State Audit Scheme.

4. In the same way that, through mechanisms such as the ISM Code, the shipping industry is committed to the concept of continuous improvement and transparency with respect to its performance, ICS and ISF believe that the same principles apply to the performance of flag states. ICS and ISF therefore reiterate their support for the decision by the Organization to make the IMO Audit Scheme mandatory.

5. In response to comments made by some Member States at recent meetings of the Sub-Committee, ICS and ISF have made some changes to the presentation of the 2012 Table in

order to emphasise the positive performance of flag States, rather than potential negative indicators.

6. In response to feedback from administrations, some other small changes have also been made to the criteria used, including those relevant to the use of Recognized Organizations that meet the requirements of IMO Resolution A739. Additional clarification is also made with respect how Post State Control (PSC) data should be interpreted with respect to flag States whose ships may only make a small number of port calls within the PSC regions concerned.

7. It is hoped that these changes will be welcome, but ICS and ISF will be happy to receive additional feedback from IMO Member States on how the Table might be further improved or refined in the future.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

8. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information above.