

## -- Marine Safety Operational RCC Work Plan --

**REGULATORY COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC) - TRANSPORT CANADA and UNITED STATES COAST GUARD – WORK PLAN**

Regulatory area to be addressed	<p><b>United States Coast Guard / Transport Canada</b></p> <p><i>Marine Safety and Security.</i> Transport Canada (TC) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) will work together to coordinate as appropriate their marine safety, environmental stewardship, and security regulatory systems, focusing on both regulations and implementation procedures for vessels in the Great Lakes and coastal waters. Initial consideration will be given to regulations, implementing procedures or practices that pertain to training and certification of seafarers, inspection of foreign vessels, ballast water inspection, and minimum crew complement for coastal shipping on the East and West coasts, and the Great Lakes.</p> <p>The agencies will continue to collaborate to identify mutually acceptable mechanisms (or practices) that recognize any existing overlap in each agency’s enforcement and inspection regimes, with the goal of minimizing the number of duplicative inspections conducted on vessels operating on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway while maintaining the same level of safety, security, and environmental protection.</p>
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	United States	Canada
Department/Agency	U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	Transport Canada (TC) – Marine Safety and Security

<b>Publish the USCG and TC Regulatory Partnership Statement</b>		April 2015
<b>Publish the USCG and TC Phase II Regulatory Cooperation Council Work Plans</b>		April 2015
<b>Consistent with the Regulatory Partnership Statement, Canada and the United States will establish a Marine Safety Operations technical working group to advance work plan priorities.</b>		Established and ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of a Marine Safety Operations technical working group. This group will meet in conjunction with the existing Marine Security Working Group.</li> </ul>	Semi-annually or later as issues require
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of stakeholder consultations, Canada will invite USCG representatives to the Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC) meeting to consult bi-annually.</li> </ul>	

<b>Workstream A</b>	<b>NATIONAL RCC PLAN</b>
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<b>Port State Control (PSC) Inspections:</b>		
Explore opportunities to develop TC/USCG standardized processes on sharing Port State Control information to support relevant RCC initiatives, and report on findings for implementation.		February 2015 – April 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify what information needs to be shared in order to carry out RCC initiatives.</li> </ul>	September 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess legal constraints on sharing this information.</li> </ul>	November 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify hardware, software, and procedural requirements for sharing information.</li> </ul>	December 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft standardized processes to formalize agreement to share designated information and route for signature.</li> </ul>	April 2016

**Crewing Issues:**

The 2010 Manila amendments to the Seafarers' Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code entered into force January 2012. Consequently, current MOU respecting Mutual Recognition of Domestic Mariner Qualifications is outdated and requires revision to take into consideration the STCW Manila amendments and Canadian Regulations, namely the *Marine Personnel Regulations*.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the 2002 MOU respecting Mutual Recognition of Domestic Mariner Qualifications</li> </ul>	February 2015 – June 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial Canada-US MOU discussions and work plan development.</li> </ul>	May 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final joint review</li> </ul>	Oct 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sign-off of MOU</li> </ul>	Dec 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOU implementation</li> </ul>	Feb 2016

**Workstream B GREAT LAKES & ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY**

Planned initiatives and sub-deliverables	Date
<p><b>Port State Control (PSC) Inspections:</b></p> <p>Joint PSC inspections were carried out in Montreal as part of the RCC initial Joint Action Plan. The PSC Pilot Project carried out under the RCC Initial Joint Action Plan indicated that Joint PSC inspections are feasible and can be accommodated by vessel crews. Based on lessons learned through the pilot project, routinely conducting joint examination in Montreal is resource intensive for USCG and would not provide a significant advantage over mutual recognition initiatives included in the GL &amp; SLS RCC report recommendations. Based on the earlier work, there may be a benefit to conducting occasional joint PSC exams at industry's request.</p>	
Review the issue of granting partial USCG PSC exam credit for vessels that have recently completed an Enhanced Seaway Inspection (ESI).	March 2015 – July 2015
Review the issue of granting a partial ESI credit for vessels that have recently completed a Transport Canada - Paris Memorandum Of Understanding - Port State Control and USCG-Port State Control exam.	March 2015 – November 2015

Explore the possibility of developing and implementing procedures to conduct joint USCG/TC PSC Inspections at Industry request.	March 2015 – March 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Validate findings of the 2012 PSC inspection pilot project. If applicable, develop and implement appropriate tools (policy and procedures).</li> </ul>	May 2015 – March 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop policy based on findings as appropriate</li> </ul>	September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop associated procedures as needed</li> </ul>	December 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation as appropriate</li> </ul>	March 2017

<b>Flag State Implementation:</b>	June 2015 – March 2017
Development of Work Plan	May 2015
USCG and TC to work on instructions and processes to harmonize laker inspections.	March 2017
Identify training needs, from above stages, for TC and USCG inspections, and implement where needed.	March 2017
<b>Joint Initial Verification Program:</b>	March 2015 – February 2016
Update 2004 International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) MOU to reflect current Joint Initial Verification Program (JIVP) practices.	
Develop updated draft MOU	March 2015
Legal review of MOU by USCG and TC	November 2015
Final review of revised MOU by USCG and TC	February 2016
Finalize and sign MOU	February 2016