



MINISTRY OF
FINANCIAL SERVICES
& HOME AFFAIRS
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

**Government Administration Building
133 Elgin Avenue, Box 126
Grand Cayman KYI-9000
CAYMAN ISLANDS
T. (345) 945-5819**

**Statement for Legislative Assembly
Minister of Financial Services, and Home Affairs, Hon. Tara Rivers, JP, MLA**

**Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Caribbean – Cayman
Hosting the Caribbean Port State Control Committee meeting**

The Cayman Islands will be hosting the 23rd Annual General Meeting for the Caribbean Port State Control Committee Meeting for the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Port State Control (PSC) 27 – 29 June, 2018 at the Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort.

What is CMOU?

The Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding, or the CMOU, on Port State Control, or PSC, is a system that maintains a watchful eye throughout the territory to ensure that shipping is conducted in a safe, secure and environmentally friendly manner. It was established in order to have regional co-operation between different Ports in the Caribbean. The Cayman Islands is a Member State of the CMOU for PSC, which has a membership of 25 countries. The collaboration between the 25 participating maritime administrations means that they agree to implement a harmonized system of Port State Control across the Caribbean. PSC is globally recognized as an effective tool to reduce the number of sub-standard ships operating on the world's seas and oceans.

Why is it important?

Port State Control is important because it promotes ship safety and protection of the marine environment. A damaged oil tanker, oil spills and wildlife coated in oil – we have all seen such appalling pictures. Fortunately, such disasters are quite rare, however if, for example, a tanker does run aground or breaks apart the consequences are often catastrophic.

The goals of the PSC are to avoid such accidents, improve ship safety and single out low quality or defective ships. Ship inspections are carried out by specially trained officers who check if shipowners and the registries with which their vessels are flagged (also known as flag states), abide with the international provisions of ship safety, protection of the marine environment and the requirements for working and living conditions of seafarers as set out in various conventions and standards implemented by the International Maritime Organization.

There are many benefits for the Cayman Islands as a member of the Caribbean MoU, one of which is the common interest in the region. Having regional co-operation between Port States

– which are countries that have the responsibility to carry out PSC inspections - through the Caribbean MOU, reduces some burden and need to inspect all the ships. So, if a ship has been recently inspected at a country that is part of the Caribbean MOU, there would be no need to inspect that ship again in Cayman.

Cayman's Historic Role

The sea and all things maritime are deeply entrenched in our culture. Our fathers and grandfathers went to sea to earn a living as merchant mariners and fishermen. Some of these men were shipbuilders before the war. It was our forefathers who developed the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry 115 years ago, which has been a significant contributor to Cayman's economy and international reputation.

As a small island nation, Cayman's link with the sea is inseparable. We have a vested interest and a responsibility to implement the conventions and standards of the International Maritime Organization, and the Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands has earned significant global recognition in doing so, holding top positions on the major MOUs, such as Paris, Tokyo and The US Coast Guard Agency - a true testament to the quality of the fleet flying the Cayman flag.

Why Cayman continues to support the CMOU and why we hold such meetings?

The Cayman Islands continues to support the CMOU because no country would want to welcome a sub-standard ship in their territory due to the possible environmental threats that these ships may pose. The CMOU helps to prevent ships from polluting the waters, keeping our beautiful white sandy beaches pristine. In order for Tourism to remain as one of the main pillars of our economy, which employs many Caymanians, we need to continue to uphold and support the mandate and initiatives of the CMOU.

The CMOU also helps to promote the safety of life at sea and the protection of seafarers, which are concerns many Caymanians can relate to given their seafaring heritage.

In addition to the positive impact on the environment and seafarers, the Cayman Islands has, as a Caribbean MOU member state, the ability to provide training for persons to become port state control inspectors, therefore, providing job opportunities for our young Caymanians.

The Cayman Islands is not just chasing global accolades as being the top superyacht registry in the world and a leader in maritime code development. We are also playing a significant role in the Port State Control regime for the Caribbean. We are not only talking the talk, but certainly walking the walk!

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