



PRESS RELEASE

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Gibraltar Maritime Administration Attends British Red Ensign Conference

Maritime Chief Surveyor Rob Cumbes and Senior Surveyor Dylan Cocklan attended the annual 'Red Ensign Group Conference' at Portland, UK from 24th to 26th May 2016.

Delegates representing the United Kingdom's maritime authorities and shipping administrations of the Crown Dependencies and UK Overseas Territories engaged in a wide range of topics, which included:

- Compliance with the IMO Instruments Implementation Code
- Maritime Security
- Yacht technical Code Development
- Delegation Policy
- Marine Surveyor Standards
- Maritime Casualty Investigations

The conference was chaired by Sir Alan Massey KCB CBE, Chief Executive of the UK Marine & Coastguard Agency. Sir Alan is a former senior officer in the Royal Navy who served as the Second Sea Lord.

Maritime security is high on the agenda for all involved in international shipping. Senior representatives from the UK Department of Transport Marine Security Section were in attendance to provide updates on shipping security and hot spots around the world and existing & proposed measures to aid shipping in the addressing security threats.

A conference reception was held on board the historic HMS Warrior in Portland Harbour, hosted by the MCA and attended by Mr Robert Goodwill MP, Minister of State for Transport, and the Labour Shadow Minister for Shipping.

Maritime Chief Surveyor, Rob Cumbes, said: 'Surveyor training to be able to comply with the III Code - which will soon become mandatory internationally - was of particular interest

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to Gibraltar. Because of our unique position and the number of ships that visit Gibraltar, the GMA has been requested to aid in the training of Port State Control officers from the Isle of Man. We expect Isle of Man surveyors to come to Gibraltar for periods of one or two weeks during the summer months to gain experience and be mentored by GMA surveyors. As another example, Cayman Islands, who specialise in yachts and super yachts, have provided training opportunities for other REG members' surveyors to gain yacht surveying experience.'

Minister for Shipping, the Hon Albert Isola MP, said: 'Conferences such as this are a fantastic opportunity for Gibraltar to have a voice in exchanging views, discussing technical issues and formulating joint policy, involving the directors of REG maritime administrations and their senior technical personnel. This is a growth industry for Gibraltar and professional development opportunities for our staff are crucial to ensuring that we are best placed to capitalise on it.'

Background

The Red Ensign Group (REG) is a group of British Shipping Registers.

It is made up from the United Kingdom, the Crown Dependencies (Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey) and the UK Overseas Territories (Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena and the Turks & Caicos Islands) which operate shipping registers from their jurisdiction.

Any vessel registered in the UK, a Crown Dependency or UK Overseas Territory is a "British ship" and is entitled to fly the Red Ensign flag.

The purpose of the REG is to uphold and enhance the reputation of the Red Ensign by collectively promoting a large and diverse fleet without compromising quality. To achieve this, the REG seeks the successful development of the British fleet, in terms of quality and controlled growth and to promote the Red Ensign brand through a collaborative working relationship.

While strength in size of fleet is a desired objective, the REG aim is to ensure that the British fleet is synonymous with "quality shipping" by maintaining high technical, social, and administrative standards; as reflected in the REG Quality Objectives. At current fleet levels across the group, the combined British Red Ensign fleet represents a total of 50.1 million Gross Registered Tonnes. This places the Red Ensign Group as the 7th largest Flag State in the world by GRT.