

PSCircular 96

18 November 2021

Recognized Organization authorization withdrawn

Purpose

- 1 This document provides guidance for PSC officer (PSCO) regarding the re-activation of expired Recognized Organization (RO) codes in THETIS, upon the withdrawal of RO authorization by a flag State.

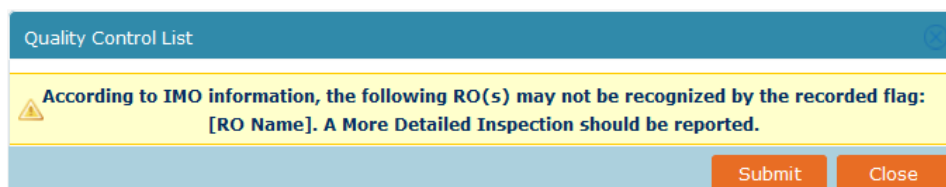
Application

- 2 Previously valid certificates could become invalid certificates due to withdrawal of RO authorization by a flag State. Upon withdrawal of the RO authorization by a flag State, all statutory certificates issued by that particular RO on behalf of the flag State become invalid immediately.
- 3 The MoU, Annex 9, sect. 3 reads "Clear grounds exist when a Port State Control Officer finds evidence, which in his professional judgement warrants a more detailed inspection of the ship, its equipment or its crew". More specifically the PSC Instruction Guidance on Type of Inspection in par. 2.2 indicates "In the absence of valid certificates or documents or after the establishment of clear grounds, the PSCO will conduct a more detailed inspection".
- 4 Once a year the PSC Committee is provided with an overview of ROs of which the authorization information in IMO-GISIS has been withdrawn completely. Upon losing the last authorization to act on behalf of a flag State, the RO code is de-activated in the information system. As a consequence the RO cannot be selected anymore for recording the issue/survey date of the statutory certificates.

Information System

- 5 THETIS receives updated information from IMO-GISIS on RO authorizations on a daily basis. The information regarding the RO status and authorization by a flag is received and processed behind the screens.

- 6 It becomes visible in a warning message at the moment the PSCO enters the RO data, or confirms the RO data already in THETIS, indicating that the particular RO may not be authorized by the recorded flag.



However, this warning message does not prevent the inspector from uploading the inspection report.

- 7 In case there is no link between flag and RO a More Detailed inspection should be performed.

Inspection

- 8 During this More Detailed Inspection, the PSCO should verify whether the flag State of the vessel has indeed authorised the RO to act on its behalf to carry out a particular statutory survey and issue the related statutory certificate on behalf of the flag State.
- 9 A statement from the flag State, acknowledging their authorization of the relevant RO, should be requested by the PSCO using the IMO national contact points list (MSC- MEPC.6/Circ.17), which can be found at IMO-GISIS and in the Paris MoU PSCO Manual.
- 10 When requesting the statement (as in par. 7 above) by the port State, the flag State should also be advised to verify (and correct) their authorization information in IMO-GISIS to avoid future requests, potentially delaying their vessels in sailing and avoiding the additional inspection burden as standard 'more detailed inspection' of their vessels.
- 11 In case there is no RO code available in THETIS to record the statutory certificate(s) issued by the RO:
 - .1 the PSCO should use the code 'other' as RO while recording the certificates in his PSC inspection report
 - .2 the PSCO should request the information system manager (via the THETIS Helpdesk thetis@emsa.europa.eu) or Secretariat (secretariat@parismou.org) to unblock an RO code, provided that this request is accompanied with:
 - .1 a photo(copy) of a statutory certificate issued by the RO;
AND
 - .2 contact particulars of the RO (the Master of the vessel should be in a position to obtain and provide contact details); AND

- .3 a statement from the flag State, acknowledging their authorization of the relevant RO.

Follow-up actions

- 12 Where the request is accompanied by the required documentation, the information system manager could unblock the RO code.
- 13 Once the RO code is unblocked, the national administrator of the MS will correct the certificates in the PSC report with RO code 'Other' with the correct RO code before validation of the report and send a modified copy of the report to the ship.
- 14 The information system manager informs the Secretariat accordingly.
- 15 The Secretariat annually informs the Paris MoU Committee and Coding Steering Board on RO codes unblocked upon request of a PSCO.

