



QUALSHIP 21



Rewarding Quality Ships

QUALSHIP 21 – In our efforts to eliminate substandard shipping, the Coast Guard has primarily focused our energy on improved methods to identify poor-quality vessels (targeting schemes), and to enforce compliance with international and U.S. standards. The quality of vessels visiting U.S. ports has improved in recent years, and hundreds of vessels are typically found with few or no deficiencies. We intend to reward those high-quality ships, and provide incentives to encourage quality operations. This initiative is called QUALSHIP 21.

Incentives For QUALSHIP 21 Vessels

- All Vessels
 - QUALSHIP 21 enrollment valid for 3 years.
 - Vessel names posted on U.S. Coast Guard website & EQUASIS.
- Tank Vessels
 - Annual COC exams reduced in scope.
- Freight Vessels
 - Three years of limited Port State Control oversight.
- Passenger Vessels
 - No reduced Port State Control exams, but will receive QUALSHIP 21 certificates and recognition on the QUALSHIP 21 web page and EQUASIS.

Vessel Eligibility

For the purpose of QUALSHIP 21, the initial eligibility criteria are:

- Must be a non-U.S. flagged vessel.
- The vessel must be registered to a QUALSHIP 21 qualified flag administration (see below).
- No substandard vessel detentions in the U.S. within the previous 36 months.
- No marine violations or serious marine casualties, and no more than one Notice of Violation (NOV) ticket in the U.S. within the previous 36 months.
- A successful U.S. PSC safety exam within the previous 24 months.
- Not owned or operated by any company that has been associated with any PSC detention in U.S. waters within the previous 24 months.
- Vessels cannot have their statutory convention certificates issued by, a targeted recognized organization. Targeted recognized organizations are any that have points assigned in the U.S. Port State Control Matrix as listed in the most recent PSC Annual Report.
- The Coast Guard reserves the right to restrict eligibility in the QUALSHIP 21 program to any vessel because of special circumstances, including but not limited to, significant overseas casualties or detentions, and pending criminal or civil investigations.

Qualifying Flag Administrations

In order for a flag administration to qualify for the QUALSHIP 21 program they must:

- Not have a three-year detention ratio greater than 1.0%.
- Have at least 10 distinct arrivals to the U.S. in each of the previous 3 years.
- Submit their Self-Assessment of Flag Administration (State) Performance to the IMO and provided a copy to the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Submit their Executive Summary from their Member State Audit Scheme audit to the U.S. Coast Guard or submit a letter/email attesting to the fact that they have not yet undergone the audit but have submitted their request to be audited.

Vessel Enrollment

Vessel owners/operators are required to submit the name of the vessel, IMO number, registered flag administration, company name, and company IMO number to the Coast Guard's Office of Commercial Compliance (CG-CVC-2). After receiving this information, the Coast Guard will screen the information and make a determination of eligibility. Once accepted into the program, a QUALSHIP 21 Certificate will be issued to the company and the vessel. The vessel will then be listed on the CG-CVC-2's QUALSHIP 21 web page.

Vessel owners that have ships enrolled in QUALSHIP 21, but do not see their vessels on the QUALSHIP 21 web page should notify the Coast Guard at the address noted on this pamphlet.

Exit Criteria

A vessel will no longer be eligible for incentives during the period of the QUALSHIP 21 certificate, under the following conditions:

- The vessel is detained, and determined to be substandard, in U.S. waters.
- The vessel has a marine violation, more than one unpaid NOV ticket, or a reportable marine casualty that meets the definition of a serious marine incident or major marine casualty.
- The vessel is found with serious deficiencies (e.g., deficiencies that are considered serious enough to warrant the detention of the vessel) that are not being monitored by the vessel's flag administration or recognized organization acting on behalf of the flag administration, or if the vessel is found to not have reported a hazardous condition prior to arrival. If the vessel is within the time limits imposed by the flag administration or recognized organization to correct deficiencies, the vessel will not lose eligibility for incentives.
- The vessel transfers to a targeted recognized organization.
- The vessel changes its flag administration to one that has a detention ratio greater than 1.0%, or to a flag administration that does not have at least 10 distinct arrivals in each of the previous 3 years.
- Vessel is associated with a company that is required by the U.S. Department of Justice or U.S. Coast Guard to have and follow an Environmental Compliance Plan due to criminal prosecution or the vessel has any other pending criminal investigations.
- A company may request reconsideration from the U.S. Coast Guard (CG-CVC-2) to remain in the QUALSHIP 21 program if it owns or operates a vessel that has been associated with an IMO reportable detention.

Renewing Eligibility

- Vessel owners do not need to submit an application to renew their eligibility. However, renewal of eligibility is established under the same conditions as initial certification, including the requirement to have completed a successful U.S. PSC safety exam within the previous 24 months. Therefore, vessel owners are encouraged to request a PSC safety exam from the local COTP during U.S. port visits during their 35th or 36th month of the term of their QUALSHIP 21 certificate.
- When renewing eligibility, current Qualship 21 flag administrations whose 3-year rolling detention ratio has gone above 1.0% will be given a one year extension, provided that their ratio is below 1.05%.

For More Information

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