



PRESS RELEASE

British Virgin Islands Accepted as Full Member as the Caribbean Port State Control Committee Concludes 31st Meeting in Guyana

Georgetown, Guyana – 18 June 2026 – The Thirty-First Meeting of the Caribbean Port State Control Committee (CPSCC 31) concluded successfully on 18 June 2026, bringing together representatives from 10 Member States, two Observer States, regional Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the United States Coast Guard to advance maritime safety, security, and environmental protection throughout the Caribbean region.

The Committee reviewed the state of port State control activities across the Caribbean and noted encouraging progress in inspection performance and regional cooperation. During 2025, Member States conducted **369 port State control inspections**, identifying **644 deficiencies** and detaining **five vessels** for serious non-compliance. The Committee emphasized the continued importance of effective inspections in ensuring that ships operating within the region comply with international maritime standards. Member States committed to increasing their port State control capabilities for the future reporting periods.

A significant milestone of the meeting was the approval of the **British Virgin Islands as a Full Member of the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding (CMOU)** following a successful period as an Associate Member. The Committee also approved an extension of Associate Membership for Anguilla and encouraged continued engagement with other territories interested in joining the regional PSC regime.

The Committee reviewed the results of two Concentrated Inspection Campaigns (CICs) conducted during 2025 on **Ship Stability** and **MARPOL Annex IV (Sewage Pollution Prevention)**. The campaigns demonstrated a generally high level of compliance among vessels operating in the region, with no detentions directly attributable to deficiencies identified under either campaign. The findings were subsequently submitted to the IMO's Sub-Committee on the Implementation of IMO Instruments (III) as part of the Caribbean region's contribution to global port State control activities.

Delegates also considered emerging maritime issues, including the oversight of autonomous vessels, inspections of vessels servicing offshore oil and gas operations, and the modernization of regional maritime information systems. The Committee approved the continued development of guidance and training in these areas and endorsed the hosting of a future regional workshop on autonomous and emerging maritime technologies.

The Technical Standing Work Group reported substantial progress on the revision of the CMOU Technical Manual, which has now been finalized as Version 8.0. The Committee also agreed to

participate in a future Concentrated Inspection Campaign on **Enclosed Spaces**, reflecting growing international concern regarding fatalities associated with enclosed-space accidents at sea.

In administrative and financial matters, the Committee approved the CMOU's audited financial statements, adopted the 2026–2027 budget and work programme, and endorsed several key governance initiatives. These included the adoption of a **Policy on Anti-Corruption**, a **Policy on In-State Training**, approval of an updated **IMO Data Exchange Agreement**, and the adoption of a **Draft Bilateral Framework for Joint Inspections** among Member States.

The Committee also noted the successful conduct of the 2026 Port State Control Seminar and On-the-Job Training Programme held in Antigua and Barbuda, which brought together 25 Port State Control Officers from across the region to enhance inspection skills and strengthen regional harmonization.

Recognizing the importance of regional and international collaboration, CPSCC 31 received reports and technical updates from the IMO Regional Presence Office for the Caribbean, the Paris MOU, Tokyo MOU, Mediterranean MOU, and the United States Coast Guard. These exchanges reinforced the Caribbean region's commitment to harmonized inspection procedures, data exchange, seafarer welfare, and continuous improvement of port State control practices.

The Committee approved the hosting of the **2027 Port State Control Seminar in Trinidad and Tobago** and agreed that the **32nd Meeting of the Caribbean Port State Control Committee** is tentatively scheduled to be held in **Grenada in June 2027**.

In closing, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the Government of Guyana and all supporting organizations for their hospitality and contributions to the successful convening of CPSCC 31. Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening maritime governance, enhancing inspection effectiveness, and promoting safe, secure, and environmentally sound shipping throughout the Caribbean region.

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