



TANGAPAN NG KOMANDANTE  
(OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT)  
**PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS**  
(HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD)  
139 25th Street, Port Area  
1018 Manila

13 October 1995

**HPCG/CG-8 /CG-3**

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR  
NUMBER.....05 – 95**

**VESSEL SAFETY EVALUATION**

**I. AUTHORITY:**

- A. RA 5173
- B. PD 601
- C. PMMR
- D. PFVR directive

**II. SCOPE:**

This Memorandum Circular shall apply to all Philippine-registered plying the domestic trade:

**III. PURPOSE:**

To institute a program of positive and constructive action designed enhance the safety of life and property at sea and promote marine environmental protection through the deployment of Coast Guard Vessel Safety and Evaluation Teams (VEST) which shall evaluate the status in all aspects aboard domestic vessel recommend corrective measures and if necessary, conduct re-inspections to ensure compliance.

**IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

**DOMESTIC VESSEL** – A Philippine-registered vessel plying the domestic trade

**VESSEL EVALUATION AND SAFETY TEAM (VEST)** – a team designated by a Coast Guard composed Station composed of duly-trained and duly-qualified vessel safety inspectors tasked with conducting vessel safety evaluations.

**VESSEL SAFETY EVALUATION (VSE)** – an evaluation of the overall status of safety on board a ship through the conduct of inspection, surveys and emergency drills.

**RE-INSPECTION** – a scheduled survey to be conducted by the VEST for the purpose of verifying that the vessel has corrected the deficiencies noted during a VSE.

**EMERGENCY READINESS EVALUATION (ERE)** – the evaluation of crew's readiness and alertness in emergency situations through the conduct of simulation drills and exercises.

**VESSEL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT (VSER)** – formal report of findings after to be accomplished by the VEST after each Vessel Safety Evaluation.

**V.PROCEDURES:**

- a. Coast Guard Station, through their respective VEST's, shall inform the shipowner/ operator beforehand of a VSE scheduled for a specific vessel.
- b. The VEST shall board the vessel to conduct the VSE while the vessel is enroute to its destination. The VEST may stay aboard for the return trip if more time needed to complete
- c. The VEST shall include inspection to verify the vessel's seaworthiness, verify its compliance with vessel safety regulations, ensured the competence of its officer's and crew, verify crew readiness in emergency situations (through ERS's), aid passengers during the boarding process, educate passenger and crew ion the basic concepts of safety, and gather information through interviews and observations that may help the PCG improve its policies towards the promotion of safety of life at sea and marine environmental protection.
- d. After each, the VEST shall accomplish a Vessel Safety Evaluation Report and submit copies of the same to Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard (Attn: CG-8), the concerned Coast Guard District, and the shipowner/ operator. If necessary and as appropriate, copies may also be forwarded to concerned maritime/ government agencies.
- e. Shipowners/ operators shall be notified of the date when the deficiencies noted during the VSE are expected to be rectified. The VEST shall schedule a re-inspection on or after that date to verify the vessel's compliance.
- f. Ideally, VSE shall not be conducted on board a vessel until at least six (6) months from the date of that vessel's last VSE. This limitation, however, does not prevent the VEST from scheduling re-inspections or from the conducting VSE's aboard a vessel if clear signs are detected that the status

of safety on board that vessel has undergone marked alarming deterioration.

**VI. CONDITIONS:**

The following conditions shall apply:

- a) Notice shall be given to the shipowner/ operator at least seven days before any scheduled VSE.
- b) VEST's shall conduct the VSE without compromising the safety or disrupting the normal operation of the vessel.

**VII. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- a. Coast Guard Stations shall be primarily responsible for the implementation of the Memorandum and shall ensure that:
  - a. the VEST is composed of duly-qualified personnel
  - b. the shipowner/ operator is notified of the inspection beforehand
  - c. the VSE is conducted in an orderly and professional manner
  - d. the VSE is expeditiously accomplished and copies are forwarded to all concerned
- b. The Assistant Chief of Staff CG-8 shall collate all reports, comments and suggestions regarding implementation of this Memorandum Circular and recommend the necessary improvements thereto.
- c. Aside being responsible for the seaworthiness of the vessel on a daily basis, the Shipowners/ operator shall ensure that the vessel is ready for the scheduled VSE and that noted deficiencies are rectified in due time.

**VIII. PENALTY CLAUSE:**

Penalties for all violations of maritime safety and regulations discovered during the conduct of a VSE shall be in accordance with the appropriate PMMRR prescribed PCG Memorandum Circular

**IX. EFFECTIVITY:**

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately upon approval.

(SGD)  
**ARTURO Y CAPADA**  
**Commodore      AFP**  
**Commandant     PCG**