



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.

What is a Quality Vessel?

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

- Must be a non-U.S. flagged ship.
- 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 ticket in the U.S. within the previous 36 months.
- Successful U.S. PSC Safety Exam within the previous 12 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).
- Not registered with a Flag Administration that has a detention ratio greater than 1.0% and the vessel's Flag Administration must have at least 10 distinct arrivals in each of the previous 3 years.
- The vessel's Flag Administration must have submitted their Self-Assessment of Flag Administration (State) Performance to the IMO and provided a copy to the U.S. Coast Guard.
- The vessel's Flag Administration must submit their Executive Summary from their Voluntary 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.
- 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.

Incentives For Quality Vessels

- All Vessels
 - Qualship 21 Certificate valid for 2 years.
 - Vessel names posted on U.S. Coast Guard Homeport & EQUASIS.
- Tank Vessels
 - Annual COC exams reduced in scope.
- Freight Vessels
 - Two 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.

How Does My Vessel Qualify?

Vessel owners that believe that they have ships eligible for QUALSHIP 21 designation, 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 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 can submit an appeal to the U.S. Coast Guard (CG-5432) 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 12 months. Therefore, vessel owners are encouraged to request a PSC safety exam from the local COTP during U.S. port visits during their 23rd and 24th month of the term of their QUALSHIP 21 certificate.
- When renewing eligibility, current Qualship 21 Flag States 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

Commandant (CG-5432)
Foreign & Offshore Vessel Compliance Division
2100 Second St. SW STOP 7581
Washington, DC 20593-7581

Phone: (202) 372-1218

Email: CG543@uscg.mil

Website: <https://homeport.uscg.mil/Qualship21>

ENCLOSURE (2)