



S.I. 2025 No. 41

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (COASTAL STATE CONTROL)
REGULATIONS, 2025**

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Merchant Shipping Act

(Act 2024–28)

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (COASTAL STATE CONTROL)
REGULATIONS, 2025**

The Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 1476 of the *Merchant Shipping Act*, makes the following Regulations:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the *Merchant Shipping (Coastal State Control) Regulations, 2025*.

Purpose

2. The purpose of these Regulations is to provide for
- (a) the inspection of vessels in Barbados waters, excluding waters within a port, to verify that the vessels comply with international maritime safety, security, environmental and maritime labour standards;
 - (b) the regulation of vessels transiting through Barbados waters; and
 - (c) related matters.

Definitions

3. In these Regulations,
“Administration” means the Barbados Maritime Transport Administration;

“Barbados Maritime Transport Administration” has the same meaning as in the *Merchant Shipping Act, 2024* (Act 2024-28);

“coastal state control” means the authority of the Government of Barbados, through the Administration, over

- (a) vessels of any flag, when such vessels are within Barbados waters;
- (b) vessels of any flag, when such vessels are transiting through Barbados waters; and
- (c) marine amenities, marine equipment, installations and offshore marine facilities in Barbados waters;

“coastal state control officer” means an officer designated under regulation 5; and

“Director” means the Director of Ocean Affairs.

Application

4. These Regulations apply to all vessels, marine amenities, marine equipment, installations or other offshore marine facilities in Barbados.

PART II

COASTAL STATE CONTROL MEASURES

Coastal state control officers

5.(1) The Minister, after consultation with the Director, shall designate in writing coastal state control officers to exercise relevant international, regional and national guidelines on the exercise of coastal state control of over vessels, marine amenities, marine equipment, installations and offshore marine facility in Barbados waters, excluding waters within a port that are within the purview of port state control regulation.

(2) On the instructions of the Director, and in addition to any surveys required by law to be carried out by classification societies, coastal state control officers shall inspect vessels, marine amenities, marine equipment, installations and other offshore marine facilities in accordance with these Regulations to ensure that they remain in compliance with international maritime safety, environmental, security and social standards.

(3) The Administration shall ensure that coastal state control officers are appropriately trained and certified as competent to perform their duties, and are supplied with appropriate identification.

Rights and duties of coastal state control officers in the various maritime zones

6.(1) Coastal state control officers have the rights and duties specified in paragraph (2) for the purpose of exercising, on behalf of the Government of Barbados, coastal state controls in the following maritime zones, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982:

- (a) the internal waters of Barbados;
- (b) the territorial sea of Barbados;
- (c) the contiguous zone of Barbados; and
- (d) the exclusive economic zone of Barbados.

(2) Coastal state control officers shall

- (a) ensure the safe navigation of vessels, whether traversing on or below the sea, including the
 - (i) organization of maritime traffic;
 - (ii) establishment and maintenance of sea lanes; and
 - (iii) establishment and maintenance of traffic separation schemes;

- (b) ensure the protection of navigational aids, marine amenities, marine equipment, marine facilities and installations, including artificial islands and oil rigs;
- (c) ensure the protection of undersea pipelines and cables;
- (d) ensure the preservation of the marine environment;
- (e) ensure the protection of marine living resources;
- (f) ensure the protection and preservation of underwater natural and cultural heritage;
- (g) assist in the regulation of activities related to marine scientific research and hydrographic surveys;
- (h) ensure that payments are made in respect of services rendered to vessels in Barbados waters;
- (i) apply, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, customs, fiscal, immigration and sanitary laws;
- (j) assist the Administration in the continued development of coastal state regulatory regimes in respect of coastal state control matters; and
- (k) assist maritime law enforcement in the fair and effective exercise of civil and criminal jurisdiction in relation to matters occurring in Barbados waters.

Restrictions on coastal state control

7. A coastal state control officer, in the exercise of his functions under these Regulations,

- (a) shall not impose requirements on foreign vessels that deny or impair the right of innocent passage;
- (b) shall not discriminate against vessels of any state or vessels transporting cargoes to, from or behalf of any state;

- (c) shall appropriately warn others of any dangers to navigation in Barbados waters of which he has knowledge; and
- (d) shall exercise coastal state controls, within the limits of national and international law, taking due account of the limits on sovereignty beyond the territorial sea of Barbados, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982.

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS

Inspections

8.(1) Vessel inspections as part of coastal state control shall be conducted in accordance with relevant international, regional and national guidelines on the exercise of coastal state control and procedures for port state control, to the extent practical, and in accordance with any other relevant guidelines or specifications set out in a merchant shipping notice.

(2) Inspections of marine amenities, marine equipment, installations or offshore marine facilities shall be conducted in accordance with international best practice, any relevant international, regional and national guidelines on the exercise of coastal state control, and any specifications in a merchant shipping notice.

General

9. Part II of the *Merchant Shipping (Port State Control) Regulations, 2025* (S. I. 2025 No. 40) applies with such changes as are necessary, subject to any requirements in respect of a coastal state control exercise set out in a merchant shipping notice, to

- (a) vessels;
- (b) marine amenities;

- (c) marine equipment;
- (d) installations; and
- (e) offshore marine facilities.

Offences

10. An owner or operator of

- (a) a vessel;
- (b) a marine amenity;
- (c) marine equipment;
- (d) an installation; or
- (e) an offshore marine facility;

who does not comply with a direction given in writing by a coastal state control officer or a requirement specified in a merchant shipping notice commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$100 000.

Coastal state control guidelines and procedures

11. The Administration, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall develop national guidelines and procedures for the effective exercise of coastal state control and to further enhance the coastal state regulatory regime in Barbados.

Made by the Minister this 23rd day of April, 2025.

G.P.I. GOODING-EDGHILL
Minister responsible for Shipping