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USCG – safety alert;
USCG – merchant mariner credential examinations;
USCG – DP training certification programs;
CTAC – meetings on 27-29 September;
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ILO – MLC 2006 amendments;
Paris MOU – 2016 CIC;
UK – MAIB annual report; and
The “Black Tom Island” incident – 30 July 1916.

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Bryant's Maritime Blog

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USCG – safety alert



The US Coast Guard issued a safety alert warning of the risk of exposure to hazardous materials by persons involved in the inspection or handling of intermodal containers, whether or not the containers are marked as containing HAZMAT. **Alert 08-16** (7/28/16)
[<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg545/alerts/0816.pdf>].

USCG – merchant mariner credential examinations



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued an **announcement** stating that the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 requires various actions regarding merchant marine credentialing. As required by this law, the NMC will cease public disclosure of examination questions and other information related to examinations. This will be replaced with an outline of examination topics and sample examinations. In addition, on or about 1 September, the NMC will remove the current bank of examination questions and illustrations from its website. (7/28/16)

[https://www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/pdfs/merchant_mariner_credential_examainations.pdf].

USCG – DP training certification programs



The US Coast Guard issued a notice announcing the availability of dynamic positioning (DP) training certification programs. **81 Fed. Reg. 49908** (7/29/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-29/pdf/2016-18036.pdf>].

CTAC – meetings on 27-29 September



The Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) and its subcommittees, sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet in Washington, DC on 27-29 September. Topics on the agenda include: safety standards for the design of vessels carrying natural gas or using natural gas as fuel and marine vapor control system certifying entities guidelines. **81 Fed. Reg. 49998** (7/29/16) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-29/pdf/2016-18035.pdf>].

MARAD – VISA open season



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice announcing the opening of open season for fiscal year 2017 applications for participation in the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) program. Open season ends on 29 August. **81 Fed. Reg. 50052** (7/29/16)

[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-07-29/pdf/2016-17888.pdf>].

ILO – MLC 2006 amendments



The International Labour Organization (ILO) issued a **news release** stating that the 2014 amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC

2006) will enter into force on 18 January 2017. The amendments are intended to provide seafarers and their families with protection in cases of abandonment, death, and long-term disability. (7/22/16)

[http://www.ilo.org/global/standards/maritime-labour-convention/news/WCMS_502387/lang--en/index.htm].

Paris MOU – 2016 CIC



The Paris MOU issued a **press release** stating that its Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) for 2016 will focus on compliance with MLC 2006. The CIC will be conducted during the period 1 September through 30 November. (7/28/16) [<https://www.parismou.org/launch-concentrated-inspection-campaign-mlc2006>].

UK – MAIB annual report



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued its **2015 Annual Report**. (7/28/16) [<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/maib-annual-report-2015-published>].

The “Black Tom Island” incident – 30 July 1916



The “**Black Tom Island**” incident occurred on Sunday, 30 July 1916. German saboteurs ignited a fire at the munitions-loading facility in Jersey City, across from Manhattan. The ensuing explosions destroyed the waterfront facility and largely obliterated the island, killing four persons and causing over \$40 million in property damage. It was the first state-sponsored terrorist attack in US history and was the genesis of the Coast Guard’s port security program. [<http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/Misc/Black%20Tom%20Island%20incident%2019160730.pdf>].

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