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easy compliance with new mandatory mustering policy

Cruise Industry News

Number 1 in Industry Reporting

Industry Adopts New Muster Drill Policy

Thursday, 09 February 2012

On behalf of the global cruise industry, a new emergency drill policy requiring mandatory mustering for embarking passengers prior to departure from port was announced today by the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) in cooperation with the Cruise Lines International Association and the European Cruise Council.

The new policy follows the industry's announcement on Jan. 27 of a Cruise Industry Operational Safety Review in response to the Concordia incident and as part of the industry's continuous efforts to review and improve safety measures.



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The new muster policy, which has been voluntarily initiated by the associations' members and is effective immediately, exceeds existing legal requirements by calling for the mandatory muster of all embarking passengers prior to departure from port. On rare occasions when passengers arrive after the muster has been completed, passengers will be promptly provided with individual or group safety briefings that meet the requirements for musters applicable under SOLAS. The formal policy is designed to help ensure that any mandatory musters or briefings are conducted for the benefit of all newly embarked passengers at the earliest practical opportunity.

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Musters are mandatory exercises conducted on cruise ships to ensure passengers are informed of safety protocols while onboard the ship, including emergency evacuation procedures. Current legal requirements for conducting a muster of passengers can be found in SOLAS and mandate that a muster occur within 24 hours of passenger embarkation.

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The Cruise Industry Operational Safety Review includes a comprehensive assessment of the critical human factors and operational aspects of maritime safety. As best practices are identified, they will be shared among cruise industry association members and any appropriate recommendations will be shared with the IMO, European Union and other governmental authorities as appropriate, according to the statement from the PSA. The industry's efforts also are consistent with the framework and spirit of the International Safety Management Code. Recommendations resulting from the Review will be made on an ongoing basis.



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