



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-2/2012/1

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FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Classification Societies, Flag State Inspectors

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF SHIPBOARD EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "IMO" – International Maritime Organization
- "RO" – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution A.789(19)

The following term shall mean:

- "Administration" – Tuvalu Ship Registry

PURPOSE:

This circular serves to provide guidance on the approval of Shipboard Equipment and Service Providers where IMO conventions often require them to meet the satisfaction of the Administration.

REFERENCES:

- (a) MSC.1/Circ.1221
- (b) A.761(18)
- (c) European Union Council Directive 96/98/EC on Marine Equipment Directive (MED)

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This Administration takes that stand that equipment that is accepted by the classification society as part of the vessel classification process will automatically satisfy the IMO convention requirements which requires the satisfaction of the Administration.

However certain equipment such as life-saving, fire detecting/extinguishing, navigation, pollution prevention, radio, and safety equipment are not always evaluated or accepted as part of the vessel classification process and some of this equipment has traditionally been approved by Administrations.

The guidelines in this circular are intended to address the approval of life-saving, fire detecting/extinguishing, navigation, pollution prevention, radio, and safety equipment in accordance with the applicable IMO conventions, specifications, requirements, and/or guidelines and the approval of service providers by this Administration.

1. Approval of Equipment

- 1.1. This Administration giving consideration also to the provisions of MSC.1/Circ.1221 will accept equipment approvals granted by another State that is a Party to the applicable convention, or a Tuvalu Recognized Organization (RO) on behalf of a Party to the applicable

convention; provided, the approvals are fully in accordance with convention requirements and other IMO guidelines. All of the following conditions must be satisfied:

- 1.1.1. The equipment must be approved as meeting the applicable IMO convention, code, specification, and/or requirements by a State that is a Party to the convention in question or a Tuvalu RO on behalf of a Party to the convention in question.
- 1.1.2. The equipment must be manufactured or assembled and tested in a facility located within the State having cognizance over the approval.
- 1.1.3. The equipment manufacturer must provide documentation that the product has been approved in accordance with the applicable IMO requirements and that the approval remains current.
- 1.1.4. If required, the item in question must be inspected, examined, and/or tested during construction by the approving authority or designated representative. The manufacturer must provide documentation that any required production testing and/or auditing was satisfactorily conducted if the item in question does not require the attendance of the approving authority or designated representative during construction. This is necessary to provide assurance that the item was manufactured to the same standards as the approved prototype.
- 1.2. This Administration will also allow Tuvalu ROs to approve equipment to the applicable IMO convention, code, specification, and/or requirements on behalf of Tuvalu.
- 1.3. This Administration also accepts equipment that has been approved under the EU Marine Equipment Directive (MED).
- 1.4. On a case by case basis, this Administration may consider accepting equipment that is manufactured in a State that is not a Party to the convention in question. In this instance, the product manufacturer must employ the services of a Tuvalu RO to certify product compliance with the applicable IMO convention, specifications, and requirements. When required, this must include certification of the manufacturer's quality system during the production period (including verification of any required production testing and the performance of any mandated audits).
- 1.5. The equipment approval procedures for EPIRBs and satellite terminals differ from those mentioned above. EPIRBs must be COSPAS SARSAT approved while satellite terminals must be approved by INMARSAT. These endorsements, by themselves, are sufficient to demonstrate that the equipment will be acceptable to this Administration.

2. Approval of Service Providers for inflatable liferafts, inflatable lifejackets, marine evacuation systems, and inflated rescue boats

- 2.1. As there are no servicing facilities for the above equipments in Tuvalu, the Administration will accept servicing facilities that are approved by a State which is Party to the SOLAS Convention or by a Tuvalu RO on behalf of a Party to the SOLAS Convention; provided, the approvals are in compliance with IMO Resolution A.761(18), as amended. In lieu of the above, this Administration may consider accepting approvals performed in accordance with IACS Unified Requirement Z17 in conjunction with Resolution A.761(18), as amended, on a case by case basis.
- 2.2. This Administration does not approve service providers for other equipment unless the approval is mandated by convention requirements. It is also Tuvalu's policy not to require the employment of service providers when the required servicing can reasonably be performed by the crew. For example, shipboard personnel may perform the periodic servicing of the fire extinguishing equipment, as described in Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-7/2011/1 if the crew is deemed capable.

- 2.3. The repair and servicing of shipboard equipment must be accomplished to the satisfaction of the attending surveyor before the relevant statutory certificates can be issued or endorsed. It is agreed that the local RO surveyor is in the best position to know the capability and performance history of a local service supplier, or to observe and evaluate the performance of the crew. This should form the basis for establishing the necessary levels of oversight and participation by the surveyor.
- 2.4. Other than as noted above, this Administration does not require that service suppliers comply with IACS Unified Requirement Z17. It is recognized that this standard is often employed for specialized functions, such as the servicing and testing of radio equipment, and this Administration has no objection to its application when deemed appropriate by the attending surveyor.

3. Recognition of Independent Testing Laboratories

- 3.1. International standards to which Tuvalu is signatory may require that certain materials, equipment, or devices are manufactured, tested, marked and installed in accordance with particular international standards and certified by an independent testing laboratory recognized by the Administration.
- 3.2. As the Administration does not maintain a specific list of acceptable independent testing laboratories, the following acceptance criteria have been established. To be recognized by the Administration as an independent laboratory, a laboratory must:
 - 3.2.1. Be engaged, as a regular part of its business, in performing inspections and tests that are the same as, or similar to the inspections and tests required in the applicable standard;
 - 3.2.2. Possess or have access to the apparatus, facilities, personnel, and calibrated instruments that are necessary to inspect and test the equipment or material under the applicable standard;
 - 3.2.3. Not be owned or controlled by:
 - 3.2.3.1. the manufacturer of the equipment or material to be inspected or tested under the applicable standard or any manufacturer of similar equipment or material;
 - 3.2.3.2. a vendor of the equipment or material to be inspected or tested under the applicable standard or a vendor of similar equipment or material; or
 - 3.2.3.3. a supplier of materials to the manufacturer;
 - 3.2.4. Not advertise or promote the manufacturer's equipment or material that the laboratory inspects and tests under the applicable standard.
- 3.3. The Independent laboratory must also possess ISO17025 certification from an accreditation body which is a full member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), or an accreditation body recognized by the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA).

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry