



# TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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## MARINE CIRCULAR

**MC-20/2012/1**

7/2012

**FOR:** Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers

**SUBJECT: ANCHORING IN THE VICINITY OF MALAYSIA TERRITORIAL WATERS**

### **DEFINITIONS:**

The following abbreviations stand for:

- “COLREGS” – Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972
- “MMEA” – Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency
- “TSS” – Traffic Separation Scheme

The term “Administration” shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

### **PURPOSE:**

This marine circular serves to inform ship owners / operators on the recent increase in the number of vessels detained by the MMEA for illegally anchoring within Malaysia territorial waters.

### **APPLICATION:**

This marine circular applies to all Tuvalu flagged vessels.

### **CONTENTS:**

In view of the increase efforts of MMEA to detain vessels for possibly anchoring illegally within Malaysia territorial waters, this Administration wishes to urge all ship owners / operators that are operating their vessels within the affected region to remind their Masters to maintain vigilance so as not to commit any contraventions that may lead to the vessels and crew being detained by the MMEA.

From our understanding, the MMEA is detaining vessels that are suspected of committing the following contraventions:

1. Vessels not in compliance with the rules of COLREGS;
2. Vessels anchoring in the TSS resulting as a potential navigational hazard to passing vessels;
3. Vessels anchoring over known positioned submarine cables on the navigational charts with the possibility of their anchors damaging these cables;
4. Vessels conducting illegal Ship-to-Ship oil transfer operations without the permission of the relevant Malaysian Authorities, which may risk causing pollution to the marine environment; and
5. Vessels carrying out illegal activities contravening international and national regulations.

Ship Owners / Operators are advised to inform their Masters and Officers of their vessels on the contents of this marine circular so as to take preventive actions in avoiding a detention by the MMEA.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar  
Tuvalu Ship Registry