



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-18/2012/1

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FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Classification Societies

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON THE ISSUANCE OF MULTIPLE INTERNATIONAL LOAD LINE CERTIFICATES

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- “ILLC” – International Load Line Certificate issued under the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended, and 1988 Protocol relating thereto.
- “OLB” – Official Log Book
- “RO” – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65)

“Administration” - shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

“Company” - means the Owner of the ship or any other organization or person such as the Manager, or the bareboat Charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for operation of the ship from the Shipowner and who on assuming such responsibility has agreed to take over all the duties and responsibility imposed by the ISM Code

PURPOSE:

This Marine Circular provides guidance on the approval, issuance, administration and operational use of multiple International Load Line Certificates (ILLCs) for Tuvalu-flagged ships that are assigned with more than one approved freeboard in accordance with the International Convention on Load Lines.

The Circular establishes the responsibilities of the Administration, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Companies and Masters to ensure that the use of multiple load line assignments does not compromise compliance with applicable international conventions or the safety of the ship.

APPLICATION:

This Marine Circular applies to all Tuvalu-flagged ships, except vessels registered solely for a single delivery voyage, that intend to operate with more than one approved freeboard assignment under the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended.

REFERENCES:

This Circular should be read in conjunction with the latest editions of the following instruments:

- (a) International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended;
- (b) 1988 Protocol relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, as amended;
- (c) SOLAS 1974, as amended;
- (d) IMO Resolution MSC.349(92) – Adoption of the Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code);
- (e) IMO Resolution MEPC.237(65) – RO Code;
- (f) IMO Resolution A.1070(28) – IMO Instruments Implementation Code (IIC Code);

CONTENTS:

1. General

- 1.1. The Administration may authorize the issuance of more than one International Load Line Certificate for an individual Tuvalu-flagged ship where justified by different approved freeboard assignments.
- 1.2. Approval shall be granted only where the proposed arrangements fully comply with the International Convention on Load Lines and all other applicable statutory requirements.
- 1.3. The issuance of multiple ILLCs shall not result in any reduction of the safety standards required under applicable international conventions.
- 1.4. Multiple certificates shall only be issued following written approval by the Administration.

2. Application for Approval

- 2.1. Prior to issuing multiple International Load Line Certificates, the RO shall submit an application to the Administration including, as appropriate:
 - 2.1.1. the number of additional load line assignments requested;
 - 2.1.2. details of each proposed freeboard assignment;
 - 2.1.3. corresponding deadweight and draft information;
 - 2.1.4. stability information demonstrating compliance;
 - 2.1.5. structural assessment where required; and
 - 2.1.6. any additional technical information requested by the Administration.
- 2.2. The Administration shall review the application and may issue written approval in paper or electronic format.
- 2.3. Electronic correspondence or electronically signed approval letters issued by the Administration shall be regarded as official approval.
- 2.4. Following approval, the RO shall:
 - 2.4.1. perform all required surveys;
 - 2.4.2. verify compliance with the applicable statutory requirements;
 - 2.4.3. complete the necessary stability, structural and freeboard assessments; and
 - 2.4.4. issue the corresponding International Load Line Certificates.
- 2.5. Copies of all Full-Term International Load Line Certificates shall be submitted electronically to the Administration using approved electronic means or through any designated electronic portal established by the Administration.
- 2.6. Approval shall be renewed whenever:
 - 2.6.1. additional freeboard assignments are introduced;
 - 2.6.2. existing assignments are withdrawn;
 - 2.6.3. approved freeboards are amended; or
 - 2.6.4. the International Load Line Certificates are renewed.

3. Conditions for the use of multiple ILLCs

The following conditions shall be complied with at all times.

- 3.1. The ship shall comply fully with all statutory requirements applicable to the maximum approved deadweight and corresponding freeboard assignment.
- 3.2. The selected freeboard assignment shall not reduce the safety of the ship under any operating condition.
- 3.3. Only one set of load line marks shall be displayed at any one time.
- 3.4. Any alternative load line marks not in use shall be completely obscured or painted over so that they cannot be mistaken for the applicable marks.

- 3.5. Only the International Load Line Certificate corresponding to the displayed load line marks shall be available for inspection.
- 3.6. Other paper or electronic certificates relating to unused freeboard assignments shall be retained in a secure manner and shall not be presented as the certificate currently in force.
- 3.7. Any statutory certificate containing deadweight, draft or freeboard information inconsistent with the selected load line assignment shall likewise be removed from operational use until the corresponding load line assignment is selected.

4. Responsibility of the Master

Before departure, the Master shall verify that:

- 4.1. the correct load line marks are displayed;
- 4.2. the corresponding International Load Line Certificate is in force;
- 4.3. all other load line marks have been properly obscured;
- 4.4. all unused certificates are securely retained;
- 4.5. the ship complies with all conditions applicable to the selected freeboard assignment; and
- 4.6. the selected operational condition corresponds with the approved stability information.

Whenever the load line marks are changed, the Master shall:

- 4.7. make an entry in the Official Log Book;
- 4.8. verify that the appropriate certificate has been placed into operational use; and
- 4.9. ensure that the change has been carried out in accordance with the Company's Safety Management System.

5. Surveys and Endorsements

5.1. During annual, intermediate, renewal or other statutory surveys, the RO shall verify:

- 5.1.1. the correct display of the applicable load line marks;
- 5.1.2. compliance of the corresponding International Load Line Certificate;
- 5.1.3. proper obscuring of unused load line marks;
- 5.1.4. consistency between certificates, stability information and statutory documentation; and
- 5.1.5. continued compliance with the approved freeboard assignments.

5.2. Where deficiencies are identified, appropriate corrective action shall be taken before the ship proceeds to sea.

6. Electronic Certificates

Where electronic statutory certificates are used, they shall comply with the applicable IMO guidance and any requirements established by the Administration.

Electronic certificates shall be readily accessible for verification by Port State Control Officers, surveyors and other authorized officials.

7. Safety Management System

Companies operating ships with multiple load line assignments should include documented procedures within their Safety Management System addressing:

- 7.1. authorization for changing load line marks;
- 7.2. verification prior to departure;

- 7.3. control of certificates;
- 7.4. record keeping;
- 7.5. responsibilities of shipboard personnel; and
- 7.6. periodic internal verification of compliance with this Circular.

8. Responsibilities of Recognized Organizations

Recognized Organizations acting on behalf of the Administration shall ensure that:

- 8.1. all statutory surveys and calculations are completed in accordance with the applicable international conventions;
- 8.2. multiple International Load Line Certificates are issued only after Administration approval;
- 8.3. certificates accurately reflect the approved freeboard assignments;
- 8.4. survey records are maintained; and
- 8.5. the Administration is promptly notified of any change affecting the validity of the approved load line assignments.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry