



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

Singapore Operations Office:

10 Anson Road #25-16, International Plaza, Singapore 079903

Tel: (65) 6224 2345 Fax: (65) 6227 2345

Email: info@tvship.com Website: www.tvship.com

MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-2/2012/1

08/2025

FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Recognized Organizations, Flag State Inspectors

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF SHIPBOARD EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "ASPC" – Approved Service Provider Certificate
- "BDMSS" – BeiDou Message Service System
- "EPIRB" – Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons
- "IMO" – International Maritime Organization
- "LSA Code" – The International Life-Saving Appliance Code, as amended
- "RO" – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution A.789(19)
- "SOLAS" – The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended
- "MARPOL" – International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
- "BWMC" – International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004
- "COLREGs" – Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972
- "LL Convention" – International Convention on Load Lines, 1966

The following term shall mean:

- "Administration" – Tuvalu Ship Registry

PURPOSE:

This circular provides guidance on the approval of:

- (a) Shipboard Equipment (where IMO Conventions require them to meet the satisfaction of the Administration); and
- (b) Service Providers.

REFERENCES:

- (a) IMO Resolution A.761(18) – Recommendation on Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Liferafts, 04 November 1993
- (b) IMO Resolution MSC.55(66) – Adoption of Amendments to the Recommendation on Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Liferafts (Resolution A.761(18)), 30 May 1996
- (c) IMO Resolution MSC.388(94) – Amendments to the Recommendation on Conditions for the Approval of Servicing Stations for Inflatable Liferafts (Resolution A.761(18)), 18 November 2014
- (d) IMO Resolution MSC.81(70) – Revised Recommendation on Testing of Life-Saving Appliances, 11 December 1998
- (e) IMO Resolution MSC.402(96) – Requirements for Maintenance, Thorough Examination, Operational Testing, Overhaul and Repair of Lifeboats and Rescue Boats, Launching Appliances and Release Gear, 19 May 2006

- (f) IMO MSC.1/Circ.1221 – Validity of Type Approval Certification for Marine Products, 11 December 2006

CONTENTS:

1. Approval of Equipment

IMO Conventions such as, SOLAS, MARPOL, BWMC, COLREGs, LL Convention, and their associated Codes, often require that shipboard equipment be “to the satisfaction of the Administration”, or in compliance with a specified IMO standard, specification or guideline.

1.1. Approvals by Recognized Organizations

Unless instructed otherwise, the Administration’s [ROs](#) are authorized to approve equipment on its behalf.

1.2. Approvals by another State

1.2.1. Equipment approvals granted by:

1.2.1.1. A Tuvalu [RO](#) on behalf of another State party to the applicable statutory Conventions; and

1.2.1.2. Equipment approved under European Union Marine Equipment Directive (MED) 2014/90/EU, as amended,

are accepted.

1.2.2. The Administration may accept equipment approvals granted by another State that is not a party to the applicable statutory Conventions on a case-by-case basis.

1.3. New Life-saving Equipment

Approvals of new life saving equipment shall take into account IMO Resolution MSC.81(70), and their installation shall comply with SOLAS, LSA Code, and relevant IMO guidelines.

1.4. Existing equipment accepted under SOLAS requirements prior to 01 January 2020 may be used so long as they are in serviceable condition.

1.5. Approval of EPIRBs and Satellite Terminals

1.5.1. EPIRBs must be approved by COSPAS SARSAT; and

1.5.2. Satellite terminals must be approved by INMARSAT or IRIDIUM or BDMSS (for regional coverage for the area set out in IMO Resolution MSC.529(106))

1.6. Type Approval Certification Scheme (see IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1221)

The expiry of the Type Approval Certificate does not affect the operational validity of an installed equipment, and similarly, an equipment manufactured during the validity period of a Type Approval Certificate need not be renewed or replaced due to expiration of the Type Approval Certificate.

2. Approval of Service Providers

- 2.1. From 01 January 2020, prior to providing maintenance, examination, testing, overhaul or repair of:

- 2.1.1. Lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats);
- 2.1.2. Rescue boats;
- 2.1.3. Fast rescue boats;
- 2.1.4. Launching appliances; and
- 2.1.5. On-load and off-load release gear for lifeboats (including primary and secondary means of launching appliance for free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and davit-launched liferafts,

a service provider, or manufacturer acting as a service provider, must be authorized by the Administration in accordance to IMO Resolution MSC.402(96).

- 2.2. The Administration does not directly approve service providers, but shall issue an authorization letter to service providers that hold a valid ASPC issued by one of Tuvalu's [ROs](#) to ensure that the service providers meet the IMO Resolution MSC.402(96) requirements.

NOTE: Authorization shall only be granted to service providers holding an ASPC issued by the vessel's RO.

- 2.3. Ship owners / operators shall submit applications for Authorization of a service provider to technical@tvship.com accompanied with:

- 2.3.1. The previous Authorization issued to the Service Provider, subject to the ASPC is still valid; and
- 2.3.2. Location (port) and approximate date of servicing.

OR

- 2.3.3. The last equipment service certificate;
- 2.3.4. ASPC of the Service Provider issued by one of Tuvalu's [RO](#); and
- 2.3.5. Location (port) and approximate date of servicing.

3. Approval of Service Stations

- 3.1. The following are to be serviced at a service station that has proper servicing facilities, properly trained personnel and has been approved by the manufacturers and/or RO:

- 3.1.1. inflatable liferafts;
- 3.1.2. inflatable lifejackets; and
- 3.1.3. marine evacuation systems.
- 3.1.4. Inflated rescue boats

- 3.2. Service stations which are not authorized by the manufacturer shall hold a Service Station Approval Certificate issued by the vessel's RO.

- 3.3. This Administration may accept servicing station approvals granted by a Tuvalu RO on behalf of another State party to the applicable statutory Convention. The acceptance is subject to compliance with IMO Resolution A.761(18), as amended by IMO Resolution MSC.55(66), and MSC.388(94) and certified according to IACS Unified Requirement Z17.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry