



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-3/2012/1

8/2026

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

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE TO RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS ON THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES ON BEHALF OF TUVALU

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "IGS" – Inert Gas System
- "RO" – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65)
- "RO-DOC" – May include Statutory Certificates, Forms, Survey Reports etc. issued by the RO on behalf of Tuvalu
- "SOLAS" – International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended

The term "Administration" shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

PURPOSE:

This Marine Circular serves as a supplement to the agreements between the RO and the Administration and provides guidance to the ROs on the issuance of statutory/exemption certificates and forms.

REFERENCES:

- (a) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended
- (b) IMO MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.7 - Lists of solid bulk cargoes for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system may be exempted or for which a fixed gas fire-extinguishing system is ineffective
- (c) FAL-LEG-MEPC-MS.1/Circ.1 - Joint guidelines for the use of electronic certificates
- (d) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-10/2011/1 – Guidance on Application for Exemptions / Equivalencies / Dispensations / Extensions

CONTENTS:

1. Guidance on Distinctive Numbers of Letters

- 1.1. The use of official numbers in the "Distinctive Number or Letters" field of statutory/exemption certificates and forms may cause inconvenience when vessels change owners/charterers as the Official Number changes when the registered owner/charterers change thus requiring the RO certificates/forms to be re-issued. However, the Call Sign remains the same during such changes.
- 1.2. This Administration hereby recommends that the vessel's Call Sign be used, instead of its Official Number, on all RO certificates/forms, issued under the authority of Tuvalu, that have a field for "Distinctive Number or Letters".
- 1.3. ROs may however use the Official Number in the field for "Distinctive Number or Letters" when vessels are not issued with a Call Sign.

2. Submission of Copy of Statutory Certificates/Forms/Survey Reports

- 2.1. ROs must provide this Administration with a copy of every Statutory Certificate/Form/Survey Report (RO-DOC) issued which may either be scanned, or be in compliance with IMO FAL-LEG-MEPC-MSC.1/Circ.1, as amended, for full electronic format.
- 2.2. For ROs who require this Administration to access the RO's online database in order to obtain the electronic RO-DOC, the RO is expected to notify this Administration whenever a RO-DOC is issued or reissued.
- 2.3. All notifications from ROs with regards to submission of any type of RO-DOC shall be made to: technical@tvship.com

3. Guidance on Exemption Certificates

- 3.1. ROs are authorized to issue any required interim or full term Exemption Certificate for use with the appropriate RO-DOC. A copy of the Exemption Certificate must be provided to this Administration in accordance to Section 2 of this marine circular.
- 3.2. Except for the provisions of sub-section 3.5 of this marine circular, all requests for exemptions must be approved by this Administration – please refer to Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-10/2011/1 which can be downloaded at: <https://tvship.com/marinecircular>
- 3.3. Exemption requests proposed to this Administration prior to vessel's delivery shall be accompanied by evidence that the Ship Owner / Operator has been consulted on the matter and is in agreement with the request.
- 3.4. ROs may reissue an Exemption Certificate during a Renewal Survey after verifying that the conditions for its issuance are still satisfied.
- 3.5. The SOLAS Convention contains provisions for exemptions where the qualifying factors for granting the exemption are clearly specified in the applicable SOLAS regulation. As such, this Administration has no objection that the initial Exemption Certificates corresponding to the following exemptions may be issued by a RO without prior approval on condition that the specified qualifying factors have been satisfactorily verified:
 - 3.5.1. certain tankers of less than 40,000 deadweight tons from the requirement to be fitted with an IGS;
 - 3.5.2. vessels that carry only ore, coal, grain, unseasoned lumber, non-combustible cargoes, or low fire risk cargoes, such as those mentioned in MSC.1/Circ.1395/Rev.7, as amended, from the requirement to be fitted with a cargo hold fixed fire extinguishing system.

4. List of ROs can be found at <https://tvship.com/ro>

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry