TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-11/2026/1

11/2026

FOR: Shipowners, Ship managers, Ship operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Shippers, Recognized Organizations and Flag State Inspectors

SUBJECT: MANDATORY APPLICATION OF IMSBC CODE AMENDMENT 08-25 FROM 1 JANUARY 2027

DEFINITIONS:

- IMSBC – International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes
- IMO – International Maritime Organization
- RO – Recognized Organization duly authorized by the Administration in accordance with the RO Code
- SOLAS – International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended

The term “Administration” or “TSR” shall mean Tuvalu Ship Registry

PURPOSE:

This circular advises the parties concerned of the mandatory application of Amendment 08-25 to the IMSBC Code from 1 January 2027.

REFERENCES:

(a) SOLAS regulations VI/1-1, VI/1-2 and VI/2
(b) IMO resolution MSC.268(85)
(c) IMO resolution MSC.269(85)
(d) IMO resolution MSC.575(110)

APPLICATION:

The IMSBC Code has been mandatory under SOLAS Chapter VI since 1 January 2011. Amendment 08-25 was adopted by the IMO through Resolution MSC.575(110) on 26 June 2025, with voluntary application permitted from 1 January 2026 and mandatory application from 1 January 2027.

Amendment 08-25 introduces new individual cargo schedules and revises existing schedules, including associated requirements for the safe loading, stowage and carriage of solid bulk cargoes.

From 1 January 2027, all Tuvalu-flagged vessels carrying solid bulk cargoes other than grain shall comply with the IMSBC Code, as amended by Amendment 08-25.

CONTENTS:

1. SHIPBOARD IMPLEMENTATION

1.1. Shipowners, managers and operators shall ensure that the applicable IMSBC Code, incorporating Amendment 08-25, is available on board and that relevant cargo-handling procedures are updated by 1 January 2027.

1.2. Before loading, the master shall ensure that the shipper has provided the cargo information required by SOLAS Regulation VI/2 and section 4 of the IMSBC Code. The master shall confirm that the ship can carry the cargo in accordance with the applicable cargo schedule, including any requirements for testing, certification, loading, stowage and carriage.

1.3. If a cargo has no individual schedule in the IMSBC Code, the procedures in section 1.3 of the Code shall be followed. Before loading, the master shall receive the certificate issued by the competent authority of the port of loading.

2. CERTIFICATION

Where Amendment 08-25 affects the vessel's existing cargo certification, approved cargo list or conditions of carriage, the owner or manager shall consult the vessel's RO. Any necessary amendments to certificates or approved cargo lists shall be completed before the affected cargo is loaded.

This circular supersedes Marine Circular MC-9/2010/1 issued in August 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry