



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-8/2026/1

06/2026

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

SUBJECT: INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION OF CTA 2012

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "CTA 2012" – Cape Town Agreement of 2012
- "EIF" – Entry into Force of CTA 2012
- "IFVSC" – International Fishing Vessel Safety Certificate
- "RO" – Recognized Organization as defined by MSC.349(92) / MEPC.237(65).
- "SFV Protocol 1993" – Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977
- "SoC" – non-statutory Statement of Compliance for International Fishing Vessel Safety aligned with CTA 2012

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

REFERENCES:

- (a) Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977.
- (b) IMO Circular CT/AGR2012.1/Circ.25.
- (c) IMO Interim Guidance to Assist in the Implementation of the Cape Town Agreement for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 2012.
- (d) Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977.

PURPOSE:

This circular sets out the Administration's implementation of CTA 2012-aligned safety standards for Tuvalu-flagged fishing vessels.

Although Tuvalu is not a Party to CTA 2012, the Administration has decided to apply the CTA 2012-aligned requirements and to authorize ROs to carry out surveys and issue a non-statutory SoC on behalf of the Administration. This approach is consistent with the IMO Interim Guidance, which encourages Member States to develop national legislation, implementation measures, and appropriate documentation for compliance.

The SoC is a non-statutory document and does not constitute a certificate issued under an international convention.

APPLICATION:

This circular applies to all Tuvalu-flagged fishing vessels of 24 meters in length and over.

CONTENTS:

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. CTA 2012 will enter into force internationally on 24 February 2027.
- 1.2. The Administration hereby authorizes [its approved ROs](#) to conduct surveys and verifications against the CTA 2012-aligned requirements and, where found satisfactory, to issue a **SoC** on behalf of the Administration.

2. NEW VESSELS

- 2.1. A new vessel means a fishing vessel constructed on or after 24 February 2027, being the EIF date of CTA 2012 internationally. This definition is adopted as per Reg 2.1 of the CTA 2012.
- 2.2. New vessels shall comply with the applicable CTA 2012-aligned requirements from the initial survey.
- 2.3. The relevant survey shall include, as applicable, requirements relating to construction, watertight integrity, stability, machinery and electrical installations, fire safety, protection of crew, life-saving appliances, emergency procedures, radiocommunications and navigational equipment, in accordance with the applicable provisions of CTA 2012.
- 2.4. Upon satisfactory completion of the initial survey, the RO may issue the SoC on behalf of the Administration.

3. EXISTING VESSELS

- 3.1. An existing vessel means a fishing vessel constructed before 24 February 2027 and which is not a new vessel.
- 3.2. Existing vessels shall be subject to a gap assessment by the RO at the first convenient survey attendance after 24 February 2027.
- 3.3. Unless otherwise required by the Administration or the RO, compliance for existing vessels shall be verified at the vessel's next renewal survey falling due on or after 24 February 2027.
- 3.4. Where full compliance is not reasonably practicable at the next renewal survey, the RO may recommend a reasonable progressive implementation plan to the Administration, as per the IMO Interim Guidance to assist in the implementation. (As per CTA 2012 Ch I (Reg 4 and 5)).

4. EQUIVALENT/EXEMPTIONS/MODIFICATIONS

- 4.1. While strict compliance with a particular requirement is not possible, the RO may recommend an equivalent arrangement, provided that such arrangement is considered at least as effective.
- 4.2. Where a requirement is unreasonable or impracticable for a particular vessel, the RO may recommend an exemption, limitation or modification, subject to the approval of the Administration
- 4.3. Any equivalent, exemption, limitation, condition or phased implementation plan shall be clearly stated in the SoC, with any exemption clearly recorded in an attachment thereto.
- 4.4. Any repairs, alterations or modifications of a major character shall comply with the requirements of a new vessel to the extent considered reasonable and practicable by the Administration.

5. SURVEY AND VALIDITY

- 5.1. The RO is authorized to carry out initial, annual, renewal and additional surveys, as necessary.
- 5.2. The survey and verification system under this circular shall generally follow a five-year cycle, with annual verification, renewal survey, and additional survey after major repairs, alterations, damage or defects, as appropriate. This is in line with the survey logic described in the IMO Interim Guidance.

- 5.3. The SoC may be issued, endorsed, renewed, suspended or withdrawn by the RO on behalf of the Administration.
- 5.4. The SoC shall normally be valid for a period not exceeding five (5) years, subject to satisfactory annual verification and continued compliance with any conditions stated therein.
- 5.5. Where deficiencies remain outstanding but the vessel is considered fit to operate safely under specified conditions, the RO may recommend issuance of a short-term or conditional SoC.

6. ENTRY INTO FORCE

This circular shall take effect on 24 February 2027.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry