



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-1/2012/1

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FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Recognized Organizations

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR NON-CONVENTION VESSELS

PURPOSE:

This Marine Circular provides technical guidance for all concerned parties on the treatment of Non-convention vessels registered in Tuvalu.

REFERENCES:

The following references should be read in conjunction with this Marine Circular:

- (a) Tuvalu [Non-convention Regulations](#) (Edition 1 July 2024), hereinafter referred to as "Regulations"
- (b) IACS [Rec No. 99](#) – Recommendations for the Safety of Cargo Vessels of less than Convention Size, as revised

DEFINITION:

Non-convention vessels are defined as vessels, whether self-propelled or non-propelled, whose length overall is 12 metres or over, and for which the provisions of the IMO Conventions listed as follows do not apply:

- (a) The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended;
- (b) The International Convention on Load Lines (ICLL), 1966, as amended;
- (c) The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), 1973/78, as amended;
- (d) International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG), 1972, as amended;
- (e) International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, as amended; and
- (f) International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, as amended.

Where certain provisions of the above IMO Conventions apply, those provisions shall be considered to be part of the Regulations and shall consequently apply.

CONTENTS:

1. The Regulations apply to Non-convention vessels as defined above with keel laid on or after 01 July 2011, and do not apply to:
 - 1.1. existing Non-convention vessels, unless expressly provided otherwise;
 - 1.2. ships belonging to the State and used for non-commercial purposes, ships of war and troopships;

- 1.3. passenger ships;
 - 1.4. pleasure craft not engaged in trade;
 - 1.5. fishing vessels;
 - 1.6. wooden ships of primitive build; and
 - 1.7. ships, including barges, whose overall length is less than 12 metres.
2. The Administration may grant exemption from any requirement in the Regulations that it regards as either impracticable or unreasonable for any Non-convention vessel in view of the distance of the ship's area of operation from its base port, the type of ship, the weather conditions and the absence of general navigational hazards, provided that it complies with such other requirements which, in the opinion of the Administration, are adequate for the service for which it is intended.
 3. The Administration may accept any type of appliance, apparatus, extinguishing medium or arrangement, that is not in accordance with the Regulations if the Administration is satisfied that it is not less effective.
 4. For Existing Non-convention vessels, the Administration will accept the vessel as it is, wherever practicable, based on the regulations applied to the vessel at the time of construction, or IACS Rec No. 99, subject to the satisfactory survey of the appointed RO.
 5. After successful completion of the Initial Survey, Annual Survey and Renewal Survey by the RO, the Non-convention certificates will be issued, endorsed and renewed respectively by the RO in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Regulations.

Should further guidance be required on the above subject, please contact this Administration at: technical@tvship.com

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry