



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-11/2005/1

07/2017

FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Recognised Organisations

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS FOR FLAG STATE INSPECTORS

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- “FSI” – Flag State Inspection
- “ISM Code” – International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention
- “ISPS Code” – International Ship and Port Facility Security Code implemented through chapter XI-2 Special measures to enhance maritime security in SOLAS.
- “MLC 2006” – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
- “RO” – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution A.789(19).

The term “Administration” shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

PURPOSE:

As part of the Administration’s objective to improve the quality of Tuvalu-flagged vessels and to monitor the work performed by ROs and nominated surveyors that act on its behalf, the Administration engages suitable shipping professionals with the appropriate experience to carry out FSIs on Tuvalu-flagged vessels.

REFERENCES:

- (a) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-8/2005/12/2a
- (b) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-8/2005/12/2b

APPLICATION:

This marine circular applies to all self-propelled Tuvalu flagged vessels except for pleasure yachts.

CONTENTS:

1. Application and Identification of Flag State Inspectors

- 1.1. Flag State Inspectors are selected based upon their qualifications and professional experience.
- 1.2. Those who wish to apply to be a Flag State Inspector should complete application Form INS which is available for download at: www.tvship.com and submit the required documents stipulated in the application form.
- 1.3. ID cards with a validity of three (3) years will be issued to approved Flag State Inspectors. The ID card is non-transferable and should only be used when carrying out FSI on Tuvalu-flagged

vessels. The ID card is a property of the Administration and can be revoked without notice, and must be surrendered to the Administration upon demand.

2. Obligations and Responsibilities of Flag State Inspectors

- 2.1. Flag State Inspectors are to discharge their duties in accordance with current international conventions, codes, guidelines and the national maritime legislation of Tuvalu. They are also to adhere to any instructions from the Director of Marine, the Registrar, his deputy and other appointed persons.
- 2.2. Flag State Inspectors shall be independent of the vessel they are inspecting. Failure to declare any conflicts of interest may result in their Flag State Inspector status being revoked.
- 2.3. Flag State Inspectors shall obtain authorization from the Administration prior to carrying out any FSI on behalf of Tuvalu.
- 2.4. The Flag State Inspector shall be responsible for:
 - 2.4.1. Conducting inspection of vessels' hull, accommodation, fire-fighting & lifesaving appliances and other applicable shipboard equipment and machineries;
 - 2.4.2. Conducting shipboard audits in relation to MLC 2006, ISM Code and ISPS Code;
 - 2.4.3. Verifying that the actual condition of the Tuvalu-flagged vessel conforms to the certificates carried on board;
 - 2.4.4. Ensuring that the crew can effectively coordinate their activities in an emergency situation, and prevent or mitigate pollution;
 - 2.4.5. Collating and compiling vessels' documentation;
 - 2.4.6. Issuing a deficiencies list (if any) by completing FORM FSIDEF (available for download at: www.tvship.com) to the Ship Owner and Master with copy to the Administration;
 - 2.4.7. Verifying rectification of deficiencies (if any);
 - 2.4.8. Submitting the FSI report by completing FORM FSI (available for download at: www.tvship.com) in a timely manner accompanied by photographs; and
 - 2.4.9. Providing recommendations in line with the requirements of applicable international and national rules and standards.
- 2.5. If the deficiencies are of such nature that the Flag State Inspector considers that they pose a substantial risk to the safety of the vessel & crew and pollution to the environment, then the Flag State Inspector shall impose a Flag State Detention by withdrawing the Tuvalu Certificate of Registry, Ship Radio Station License, and Minimum Safe Manning Certificate and informing this Administration at the earliest convenience for further instruction.

3. Flag State Inspection Reporting

- 3.1. Flag State Inspectors shall use FORM FSI and FORM FSIDEF for the FSI report which is to be completed in its entirety and provide an explanation if it is not possible. The FSI report should be submitted to the Administration within 72 hours after attendance and shall not be transmitted to another third party without prior authorization from the Administration.
- 3.2. Inspectors should endeavor to have the following photographs of the vessel taken and included with the inspection report:
 - 3.2.1. Overall hull (fore, aft and sides) with vessel's name, port of registry, IMO number and other relevant markings;

- 3.2.2. Weather deck areas including fore & aft decks;
- 3.2.3. General fire-fighting and lifesaving appliance, i.e. fixed fire-fighting system, survival crafts, etc.;
- 3.2.4. Bridge, engine control room and other control stations;
- 3.2.5. Overview of engine room with main & auxiliary engines and pollution prevention equipment; and
- 3.2.6. Any significant defects.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry