



# TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

*Singapore Operations Office:*

10 Anson Road #25-16, International Plaza, Singapore 079903

Tel: (65) 6224 2345 Fax: (65) 6227 2345

Email: info@tvship.com Website: www.tvship.com

## MARINE CIRCULAR

### MC-11/2005/1

03/2019

**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:

- “EEBD” – Emergency Escape Breathing Devices
- “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:

- 1) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-8/2005/12/2a: Flag State Inspection
- 2) Tuvalu Marine Circular MC-8/2005/12/2b: Safety Checklist for SOLAS 74/78 Requirements
- 3) IMO Resolution A.1070(28): IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III CODE)

#### 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 on their qualifications and professional experience.
- 1.2. Those who wish to apply to be a Flag State Inspector shall complete the application Form INS which is available for download at: [www.tvship.com](http://www.tvship.com) and submit the required supporting 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.
- 1.4. On the renewal application of the ID cards, Flag State Inspectors shall submit supporting documents to demonstrate the continuous updating of their knowledge as appropriate to the tasks they are authorized to undertake.

### **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 ISM Code, ISPS Code and MLC 2006;
  - 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](http://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](http://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. In the event that a vessel is found unfit to proceed to sea, or is found to present an unreasonable threat of harm to the marine environment, the Flag State Inspector shall impose a Flag State

Detention by withdrawing the Statutory Certificates relevant to the IMO instruments issued by the RO, the Tuvalu Certificate of Registry, Ship Radio Station License, and Minimum Safe Manning Certificate, and inform the 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 shall endeavor to include sufficient photographs as practicable to illustrate the overall general condition of the vessel with the inspection report:
  - 3.2.1. Overall hull (fore, aft and sides) with vessel's name, port of registry, IMO number, Loadline marks and other relevant markings;
  - 3.2.2. Weather deck areas including forecastle, main deck (port and starboard), poop decks, mast deck, deck machineries including windlass, winches, deck cranes, embarkation/accommodation ladders, air pipe head and closing appliances, etc.
  - 3.2.3. General condition of ballast tanks, cargo tanks/holds including cargo hatch covers.
  - 3.2.4. Fire-fighting appliances (FFA) such as Portable FFA, Fixed fire-fighting system, Fire control stations, engine room isolation valve, main and emergency fire pumps, fire hoses, quick closing valves to fuel tanks, fireman suit and equipment, EEBD, means of escape from accommodation, machinery and other spaces, etc.
  - 3.2.5. Lifesaving appliances (LSA) such as lifeboats, rescue boats, and liferafts including securing arrangement of hydrostatic release, etc.
  - 3.2.6. General condition of the bridge and navigation equipment, accommodation spaces, etc.
  - 3.2.7. Overview of engine room and equipment including the main engine, main and emergency generators, boiler and associated fittings, purifiers, steering gear, engine room bilges and pollution prevention equipment such as sewage treatment plant, oil filtering equipment, incinerators, etc.
  - 3.2.8. Any significant defects.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar  
Tuvalu Ship Registry