



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-9/2011/1

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

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON STATUTORY CERTIFICATES AND APPROVAL OF DOCUMENTS

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "IACS" – International Association of Classification Societies
- "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.
- "MLC2006" – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
- PSC – Port State Control
- "RO" – Recognized Organization as defined by IMO Resolution A.789(19).
- "SOLAS" – International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended
- "SMPEP" – Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plan
- "SOPEP" – Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan

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

PURPOSE:

This marine circular provides clarification to the terminology used to describe statutory certificates and establishes the Administration's policy for their issuance and use.

APPLICATION:

This marine circular applies to all Tuvalu flagged vessels and Tuvalu ROs.

REFERENCES:

- (a) IACS Recommendation No.98, as amended
- (b) ISM Code
- (c) ISPS Code
- (d) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended

CONTENTS:

1. Policy on Statutory Certificates

1.1. Interim (INT)

- 1.1.1. An INT certificate, whose validity should generally not exceed five (5) months, may be issued by an attending Surveyor upon satisfactory completion of a survey in order to permit the vessel to operate while the FT certificate is being prepared by the RO.
- 1.1.2. Where a change of flag and/or ownership has taken place with no change of RO necessitating the re-issuance of FT certificates, the RO shall issue INT certificates while FT certificates are being prepared for the balance of the term of the existing certificates.

- 1.1.3. These certificates are not to be confused with those issued under the ISM and ISPS Codes and MLC2006 by ROs and RSOs which allow ships to operate during the implementation periods allotted.

1.2. Full Term (FT)

A FT certificate may be issued upon satisfactory completion of an initial or periodical/renewal survey indicating that the vessel and its equipment meet the applicable provisions of a particular convention. A FT certificate may also be issued or reissued after revalidation when all deficiencies, which may have led to the issuance of a "Short Term" certificate, have been rectified. The FT certificate is to be issued in the format and validity prescribed by the applicable IMO Convention.

1.3. Short Term / Conditional (ST/CND)

- 1.3.1. A ST/CND certificate may be issued to allow a vessel to sail with deficiencies that cannot be corrected at the port of survey so that the deficiencies may be permanently rectified at the next port on condition that there are no detainable or serious safety-related deficiencies.
- 1.3.2. In cases where detainable or serious safety-related deficiencies are identified, the ship owner has to implement temporary measures to downgrade the deficiency to minor status to the satisfaction of the attending RO surveyor, and submit a proposal for corrective action(s) to the RO who shall review and provide clear recommendations on the actions that will be taken by the ship owner to rectify the deficiencies to the Administration for approval to issue a ST/CND certificate (which shall replace the FT certificate until the deficiency is rectified and verified by the RO).
- 1.3.3. ST/CND certificates shall be limited to a period not exceeding three (3) months, except when specifically approved by the Administration.
- 1.3.4. The RO shall monitor and follow up on vessels that have been issued with ST/CND certificates ensuring that the ship owner complies with the recommendations laid out.
- 1.3.5. Request for approval for ST/CND certificates shall be directed to technical@tvship.com and shall be submitted with all the necessary information mentioned in section 1.3.2 above for consideration.
- 1.3.6. These certificates are not to be confused with those issued under the ISM and ISPS Codes which allow ships to operate after successful audits for safety management systems and security plans while FT certification is being prepared by the head or regional office of the RO or RSO.

2. Electronic Statutory Certificates

- 2.1. The issuance and use of electronic statutory certificates issued by the RO on board Tuvalu flag vessels are acceptable on condition that the electronic statutory certificates conform with IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev2, "Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates", as amended.
- 2.2. All electronic statutory certificates issued in accordance to section 2.1 above shall be deemed valid in accordance with all applicable international instruments that Tuvalu is a party to.
- 2.3. Where necessary, ship owners / operators may apply to the Administration for a letter of approval for the carriage of electronic statutory certificates in-lieu of traditional paper certificates to be placed on board the vessel as an additional measure to facilitate acceptance by port authorities.

3. Approval of Documents after Change of Flag or RO

The following documents do not need to be re-approved upon change of flag or RO if they have been previously approved by another Administration signatory to the Convention or another RO of this Administration:

- 3.1. Cargo Securing Manual
- 3.2. Technical File for Marine Diesel Engine
- 3.3. Oil Discharge Monitoring System

- 3.4. ODME Manual
- 3.5. Ship Structure Access Manual
- 3.6. STS Operation Plan
- 3.7. Ballast Water Management Plan, D1 standard (D2 to be re-approved), in force from 8th September 2017
- 3.8. Volatile Organic Compounds Management Plan (VOC)
- 3.9. Document of approval for the Stability Instrument (applicable at the first scheduled renewal survey of the ship on or after 1st January 2016, but no later than 1st January 2021)
- 3.10. SOPEPs and SMPEPs

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry