



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-13/2010/1

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

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON FIRE CONTROL PLANS & LIFE-SAVING SYMBOLS

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- “FCP” – Fire Control Plan
- “IMO” – International Maritime Organization
- “MSC” – Maritime Safety Committee (IMO)
- “PSC” – Port State Control
- “SOLAS” – International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended

The term “Administration” shall mean Tuvalu Ship Registry

PURPOSE:

This marine circular provides for an interpretation on and clarification involving the establishment of FCPs and Lifesaving Plans on board Tuvalu flagged vessels as recommended by the referenced resolutions and MSC circular.

REFERENCES:

- (a) IMO Resolution A.952(23), adopted on 5 December 2003
- (b) IMO Resolution A.654(16), adopted on 19 October 1989
- (c) IMO Resolution A.760(18), adopted on 4 November 1993, as amended by IMO Resolution MSC.82(70), adopted on 11 December 1998
- (d) MSC/Circ.451, dated 24 September 1986

APPLICATION:

IMO Resolution A.760(18), as amended, is applicable to all Tuvalu flagged vessels. Resolution A.654(16) and Resolution A.952(23) are also applicable, but at different times depending on whether the vessel is a newbuild or an existing vessel.

CONTENTS:

1. Lifesaving Symbols

The policy of the Administration has been that compliance with Resolution A.760(18) is mandatory for all vessels. The first reference to the lifesaving symbols was in Regulation 9.2.3 in Chapter III of the 1983 Amendments to SOLAS. When the body of a regulation refers appropriately to an IMO standard, the Administration has taken the viewpoint that compliance with the referenced standard or some equivalent is required. Classification Societies and PSC officers have checked this requirement vigorously therefore vessels not in compliance should take appropriate action immediately.

2. Fire Control Plans

2.1. New Construction

All new vessels the keels of which are laid on or after 1 January 2004 shall be required to use the new symbols on their FCPs. During the plan review process, Classification Societies should verify compliance with IMO Resolution A.952(23).

2.2. Existing Vessels

All vessels the keels of which have been laid before 1 January 2004 shall not be required to revise their FCPs that have not used the new IMO symbols as long as they use the symbols contained in IMO Resolution A.654(16). The Administration will expect, however, that the new IMO Resolution A.952(23) symbols be incorporated if it becomes necessary for any reason to reissue a vessel's FCP.

2.3. Storage of Plans Outside the Deckhouse

A duplicate set of FCPs or a booklet containing such plans shall be permanently stored in prominently marked watertight enclosure outside the deckhouse for the assistance of shore-side fire-fighting personnel. (refer to IMO MSC/Circ.451)

3. Marking of Stowage Location of Equipment and Arrangements

Marking of all life saving, fire fighting equipment and arrangements shall correspond to the symbols illustrated in the respective plan(s). The marking, if not of a photoluminescent type, shall be at least in "like colour" to that shown in the plan(s).

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Tuvalu Ship Registry