



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MARINA ADVISORY NO.: 2023-31

Series of 2023

TO : All Shipowners/ Bareboat Charterers/ Ship Operators/ Ship Managers/ Shipmasters, Officers and Crew of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Licensed Manning Agencies, Recognized Organizations, and Concerned Government Agencies

SUBJECT : INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) CIRCULAR LETTERS AS OF 30 NOVEMBER 2023

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Notice is hereby given on the following attached IMO Circular Letters published as of 30 November 2023:

1. **Circular Letter No. 4769 (22 August 2023) - *Communication from the Government Ukraine*** – Information on the establishment of a recommended maritime route on a temporary basis, to facilitate the unblocking of international shipping in the north-western part of the Black Sea. The proposed temporary route has an exit from the sovereign waters of Ukraine, to the territorial sea and the exclusive maritime economic zone of Romania. Shipmasters are advised to move ships as close as possible to the coast of the western part of the Black Sea. This information was highlighted during the 129<sup>th</sup> session of IMO Council, and brought to seafarers by coastal warnings.
2. **Circular Letter No. 4772 (08 September 2023) - *Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974***  
*Amendments to the International Code of Safety for Ships Using Gases or other Low Flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code)*  
*Amendments to the International Code for the Safe Carriage of Grain in Bulk (Grain Code)*  
*Amendments to the International Code on the Enhanced Programme of Inspections during Surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, 2011 (2011 ESP Code)*  
*Amendments to the International Life-Saving Appliance Code (LSA Code)*  
*Amendments to the International Code for Fire Safety Systems (FSS Code)*  
*Amendments to the Performance standards for protective coatings for dedicated seawater ballast tanks and the Performance standards for protective coatings for cargo oil tanks of crude oil tankers (resolutions MSC.215(82) and MSC.288(87), respectively)*  
*Amendments to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code*



***Revised International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F), 1995***

***Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) Code***

– To transmit the text of the aforementioned proposed amendments to the SOLAS Convention; the IGF, Grain, 2011 ESP, LSA and FSS Codes; the Performance standards for protective coatings (resolutions MSC.215(82) and MSC.288(87)); the STCW Code; and the revised STCW-F Convention and new STCW-F Code, set out in annexes 1 to 10, respectively, for consideration with a view to adoption by the Committee at its 108<sup>th</sup> session, in accordance with article VIII(b)(iv) of the SOLAS Convention, article XII(1)(a)(iv) and regulation I/1.2.3 of the STCW Convention and article 10.2.4 of the STCW-F Convention, as appropriate.

3. ***Circular Letter No. 4777 (18 September 2023) - Communication from the Government of Spain regarding a liferaft service station authorized in accordance with resolution A.761(18)*** – For the information of vessels and companies, given the serious risk to the safety of life at sea that could be posed by the lack of proper maintenance of life rafts by the company COMFER MARINE SL, a service provider authorized by the Spanish Administration, in accordance with Resolution A.761(18), for the servicing of DSB (Deutsche Schlauchboot GmbH) inflatable rafts, until 28/11/2022.

Wherein it has been detected that, almost systematically, this company did not carry out the required maintenance and tests on the liferafts even though the documentation provided to the customer so indicated.

4. ***Circular Letter No. 4778 (19 September 2023) - Communication from the Government of the Republic of Iraq*** – For information on the Protest Note Verbal No.5632/3/5/9 dated on 13/9/2023 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, addressed to the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Baghdad regarding the delimiting of the Kuwait territorial sea without bilateral agreement with Government of Iraq.
5. ***Circular Letter No. 4783 (03 October 2023) - Communication from the Government of the Republic of Kiribati*** – Notice that a fraudulent website ([www.kiribatikmdo.com](http://www.kiribatikmdo.com)) has been issuing what they claim are valid Certificates of Competency (CoCs) under the name of Kiribati. This website follows a previous one ([www.kiribatimaritime-gov.org](http://www.kiribatimaritime-gov.org)) which was also identified as fraudulent.
6. ***Circular Letter No. 4782 (01 October 2023) - Notification of the establishment of the date on which discharge requirements for the Red Sea Special Area and the Gulf of Aden Special Area under MARPOL Annex I shall take effect***  
***Notification of the establishment of the date on which discharge requirements for the Red Sea Special Area under MARPOL Annex V shall take effect*** – To transmit the text of resolution MEPC.381(80) regarding the discharge requirements for the Special Areas shall take effect starting from **1 January 2025**, in accordance with the relevant regulations of MARPOL.



Member Governments and Parties to the MARPOL Convention are invited to encourage the shipping industry to comply on a voluntary basis with the discharge requirements immediately for the two Special Areas.

7. **Circular Letter No. 4784 (05 October 2023) - Communication from the Government of the State of Kuwait** – For information on the Note Verbale of the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Baghdad No. 6/2023 dated 10/2/2023 addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq regarding the response to Note Verbal No.5632/3/5/9 dated on 9/13/2023 on the State of Kuwait's Decree on Maritime Zones 317 of 2014.
8. **Circular Letter No. 4789 (13 October 2023) - Communication from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** – Information from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency for all the delegates of the thirty-third session Assembly, regarding the procedures for visa applications, wherein it should be made at least six weeks before the date on which the session begins.

The Government of the United Kingdom will endeavour to do all we can to assist with visa applications, however we kindly ask that delegates follow the procedure outlined, specifically noting the correct type of visa and the time limit required for applications to be processed.

9. **Circular Letter No. 4790 (16 October 2023) - Communication from the Government of Tuvalu** – Letter from the Secretary of the Ministry of Transportation, Energy and Tourism of Tuvalu on the Discovery of a Fraudulent Tuvalu Ships Registry (TSR) Website, as per the claim made by Samuelu Telavi in this website <https://maritimetuvalu-gov.tv>.

The presently recognized TSR is currently managed by the CCMA Pte Ltd based in Singapore.

10. **Circular Letter No. 4788 (11 October 2023) - Communication from the Government of the Republic of Belarus** – Letter from the Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Belarus in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the negative impact on global food security of sanctions against Belarusian potash fertilizers, issued as document A/77/978 of the United Nations General Assembly.
11. **Circular Letter No. 4791 (02 October 2023) - Communication from the Governments of Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands** – Letter from the Director Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management strongly advises ship owners, operators and masters of ships passing through the Kieldrecht lock at the port of Antwerp to update their VHF equipment accordingly **before 1 January 2024**, as the VHF voice channel will be altered from 88 to 1027 (27L).

Ship owners, operators and masters of ships passing through the new lock at Nieuwe Sluis Terneuzen in the Scheldt estuary are likewise urged to update their



VHF equipment accordingly **before 1 October 2024**, to the new simplex VHF voice channel 1028 (28L).

12. **Circular Letter No. 4797 (06 November 2023) - Access control – IMO Headquarters Building** – Update and reminder to delegates and observers of IMO Member States on the access control to the IMO Headquarters Building, as detailed in the attached annex of this circular letter.

In the interest of safety and security, IMO reserves the right to limit access to the IMO Headquarters Building or introduce further measures as may be required for specified periods.

13. **Circular Letter No. 4771 (06 October 2023) - IMO Member State Audit Scheme – Consolidated Audit Summary Report (CASR)** – Transmittal by the IMO Secretary-General of the sixth consolidated audit summary report (CASR) prepared in accordance with paragraph 7.4.3 of the Procedures for the IMO Member State Audit (resolution A.1067 (28)), containing lessons learned from two audits completed in 2021 and five audits completed in 2022.
14. **Circular Letter No. 4804 (07 November 2023) - Communication from the United Nations Assistant High Commissioner for Protection concerning Multi-stakeholder Pledge: developing comprehensive responses to the protection challenges faced by refugees and migrants moving by sea** – Letter from Ms. Gillian Triggs, United Nations Assistant High Commissioner for Protection of UNHCR, encouraging IMO Member States and stakeholders to announce their concrete pledges and contributions, highlight progress made, share good practices and take stock of the challenges and opportunities ahead, through the GCR Digital Platform (<https://globalcompactrefugees>).
15. **Circular Letter No. 4802 (07 November 2023) - Communication from the Government of the State of Libya** – Letter of the Libyan Maritime Authority (LMA) regarding the raised security level in the Commercial Port of Tobruk to Level 2, in relation to the implementation of the provisions of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.
16. **Circular Letter No. 4786 (09 November 2023) - Amendments to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code** – Transmittal of the text of the proposed draft amendments to the IMDG Code, set out in annexes 1 and 2, for consideration by the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 108th session (15 to 24 May 2024), with a view to adoption in accordance with article VIII(b)(iv) of the Convention.
17. **Circular Letter No. 4815 (16 November 2023) - Communication from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** – Letter response to the concern of the Argentine Republic (Circular Letter No. 4796) on the extension of application of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage of 2001 to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands including the surrounding maritime areas, which took effect on 2 August 2023.

18. **Circular Letter No. 4818 (23 November 2023) - Notification on electronic certificates and electronic logbooks received from the Government of Hong Kong, China** – Notification of the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China dated 18 July 2023, on their Shipping Legislation (Electronic Certificates and Electronic Log-books) (Amendment) Ordinance 2023 which entered into force on 21 July 2023.

The Marine Department of Hong Kong, China will also commence the issuance of electronic certificates and seafarers' licenses on 1 August 2023, and further encourages the use of such to enhance the efficiency of marine services and reduce the workload of seafarers.

Copy of the Circular Letters may be viewed at or downloaded from <https://marina.gov.ph/marina-advisory-flag-state-administration-advisory/>.

Attention is therefore invited for all Philippine overseas shipping companies, shipowners, and other concerned maritime entities to observe any action/s you may deem appropriate.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

Issued on DEC 11 2023 at Manila, Philippines.

  
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Administrator

Control no.: OSS-CSMID-1573

Date of Publication: 13 December 2023

Business Mirror

Date of Submission to ONAR: