



MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

MARINA ADVISORY NO.: 2023-05

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 7 FEBRUARY 2023

Notice is hereby given on the following attached IMO Circular Letters published as of 7 February 2023:

1. **Circular Letter No. 4642 (29 October 2022) - Amendments to the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code** – Transmitting herewith, in accordance with article VIII(b)(i) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, the text of the proposed draft amendments to the IMSBC Code (AMENDMENT 07-23 (Consolidated version of the IMSBC Code)), set out in the annex, for consideration with a view to adoption by the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 107th session, in accordance with article VIII(b)(iv) of the Convention.
2. **Circular Letter No. 4649 (01 November 2022) - Communication from the Governments of Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America** – To strongly condemn the recent launches of ballistic missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and their non-compliance to the rules and provisions of the below IMO documents, wherein no measures were taken to provide warnings to such activities, thereby endangering the safety of international shipping.
 - **MSC.1/Circ.1551 (25 November 2016) NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS CONCERNING OPERATIONS ENDANGERING THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION**
 - **C/ES.29/15/1 (25 October 2017) Supplementary Agenda Items MEASURES TO PREVENT ACTS OF ENDANGERING THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION**
Submitted by Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States (COUNCIL 29th Extraordinary session Agenda item 15)
3. **Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.35/Rev.1 (15 November 2022) - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Designation of seafarers as key workers** – By the date of this Circular Letter, the IMO Secretary-General has received 66 notifications from Member States and two (2) from Associate Members that they have designated seafarers as key workers, as listed in the annex, with Jordan being the latest to do so.



4. **Circular Letter No. 4232/Add.18 (16 November 2022) - *Communication from the Government of Ukraine*** – Information on the updated list of measures adopted and enforced by the Government of Ukraine with regard to the extension of validity of seafarers' certificates due to exceptional circumstances resulting from Russian armed aggression against Ukraine and COVID-19 outbreak.
5. **Circular Letter No. 4656 (18 November 2022) - *Amendment to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL), 1965*** – The Facilitation Committee, at its forty-sixth session (9 to 13 May 2022), approved the proposed amendment to the annex to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965, for consideration with a view to adoption at its forty-seventh session (13 to 17 March 2023). The amendment approved was on Recommended Practice 7.11.
6. **Circular Letter No. 4655 (21 November 2022) - *Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI - United Nations arms embargo on Libya*** – Information for all merchant vessels transiting on the high seas off the Coast of Libya or vessels bound to or from Libya, about the Operation EUNAVFOR MED (European Union Naval Force Mediterranean) IRINI, an impartial military instrument, put at the disposal of the international community and the Libyan people, to support the implementation of the UN arms embargo to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Likewise, encouraging the involvement of maritime entities and masters to adopt cooperative posture with EUNAVFOR MED IRINI assets, when they operate in the Mediterranean Sea, contributing to the sustainability of the security environment.

7. **Circular Letter No. 1886/Rev.7 (28 November 2022) - *Implementation of resolution A.1117(30) – IMO ship identification number scheme*** – Information on the revision of the IMO identification number scheme to allow its application to sea-going, self-propelled ships of 100 gross tonnage and above, including fishing vessels of steel and non-steel hull construction; passenger ships of less than 100 gross tonnage, high speed passenger craft and mobile offshore drilling units covered by SOLAS regulation V/19-1; and all motorized inboard fishing vessels of less than 100 gross tonnage down to a size limit of 12 metres in length overall (LOA), authorized to operate outside waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State.

As well as, information on the regular data exchanges between flag Administrations and S&P Global Market Intelligence to maintain the integrity of the IMO numbering schemes and of the identification numbers in circulation, and will be further developed for the fleets of fishing vessels covered by these additional facilities, separately from the data exchanges mentioned above. The data exchanges operate under the procedure for the collection of national fleets statistics* (Circular Letter No.3347 on Provision of fleet tonnage information).



8. **Circular Letter No. 4660 (30 November 2022) - *Communication from the Government of Italy*** – To inform all IMO Member States of the Joint Statement related to the Venice Trans-Regional Seapower Symposium, organized by the Italian Navy, which was held from 5th to 7th October 2022. The Statement – endorsed by over 50 Navies and 100 International Organizations – is focused on “A Blue Cluster Approach in the Ocean Decade” theme and follows the path made by the UN project for the sustainable and coordinated development of the seas.
9. **Circular Letter No. 4658/Rev.1* (30 November 2022) -**
- ***Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974***
 - ***Amendments to the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (1978 SOLAS Protocol)***
 - ***Amendments to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (1988 SOLAS Protocol)***
 - ***Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978***
 - ***Amendments to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) Code***
 - ***Amendments to the International Life-Saving Appliance Code (LSA Code)***
 - ***Amendments to the International Code of Safety for High-speed Craft, 1994 (1994 HSC Code)***
 - ***Amendments to the International Code of Safety for High-speed Craft, 2000 (2000 HSC Code)***
 - ***Amendments to the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code)*** – **This Circular Letter has been revised to insert additional entries in annexes 2 and 3 with regard to amendments to forms E, P and C.*

The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 106th session (2 to 11 November 2022), approved draft amendments to the following, for circulation with a view to adoption at its 107th session, tentatively scheduled for 31 May to 9 June 2023:

- .1 chapters II-1, II-2, V and XIV and the appendix (Certificates) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (**SOLAS**), **1974**, as set out in annex 1;
- .2 appendix to the annex to the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (**1978 SOLAS Protocol**), as set out in annex 2;
- .3 appendix to the annex to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (**1988 SOLAS Protocol**), as set out in annex 3;
- .4 regulations I/1 and I/2 of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (**STCW**), **1978**, as set out in annex 4;



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- .5 section A-1/2 of the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (**STCW Code**), as set out in annex 5;
 - .6 the International Life-Saving Appliance Code (**LSA Code**), as set out in annex 6;
 - .7 the International Code of Safety for High-speed Craft, 1994 (**1994 HSC Code**), as set out in annex 7;
 - .8 the International Code of Safety for High-speed Craft, 2000 (**2000 HSC Code**), as set out in annex 8; and
 - .9 the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (**Polar Code**), as set out in annex 9.
10. **Circular Letter No. 4246/Add.14 (08 December 2022) - Communication from the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar** – Information on the validity of the STCW Certificates of Myanmar seafarers serving ONBOARD and engaged on international voyages and near-coastal voyages, who are affected by the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, shall be extended to 30 June 2023 (Marine Instruction 06/2022).
11. **Circular Letter No. 4237/Add.31 (14 December 2022) - Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation** – Information to extend under the appropriate procedures the Certificates of Competence, as well as the endorsements on recognition of certificates issued by another Government, Certificates of Proficiency, tanker endorsements (oil tankers, liquefied gas tankers, chemical tankers), certificates for ship's cooks and other documents required in accordance with STCW, 1978, the validity of such documents is extended for three (3) months.
12. **Circular Letter No. 4662 (16 December 2022) - Go-Live of Meeting Document Submission Portal on IMODOCS** – Announcement on the "go-live" of the new Meeting Document Submission Portal for all meetings taking place from 03 January 2023, to help streamline and harmonize the process of submitting documents for consideration by the different IMO bodies, as well as to help overcome issues with the submission of large files.
- Access to the Submission Portal will continue to be through the IMODOCS homepage (<https://docs.imo.org>) and the detailed information on how to use it is set out in the annex of this Circular Letter.
13. **Circular Letter No. 4671 (16 December 2022) - Threats to maritime safety caused by repeated missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea** – As requested by the Council, at its 128th session (C 128/D, paragraph 20.4), the Secretary-General is herewith circulating the decisions taken at the session concerning the prevention of acts endangering the safety of navigation. At the session, the Council considered the grave threats to maritime safety and the international community caused by repeated missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and, as suggested in document C 128/20/1, took certain actions enumerated in C 128/D, paragraph 20.3.



14. **Circular Letter No. 4668 (22 December 2022) - Amendments to the Ballast Water Management Convention** – MEPC 79 (12 to 16 December 2022) approved draft amendments to the BWM Convention regarding the form of the Ballast Water Record Book, with a view to adoption at MEPC 80 (03 to 07 July 2023).
15. **Circular Letter No. 4677 (10 January 2023) - World Maritime Day and Day of the Seafarer, 2023** – Advisory of the IMO Secretary-General that:
 - .1 World Maritime Day will be celebrated at IMO Headquarters on 28 September 2023, with the theme "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on";
 - .2 the 2023 World Maritime Day Parallel Event is expected to be celebrated in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Arrangements will be announced in due course; and
 - .3 the annual Day of the Seafarer will be celebrated on 25 June 2023, with its campaign focused on highlighting the key role of seafarers, while thanking them for their invaluable contribution.
16. **Circular Letter No. 4248/Add.18 (11 January 2023) - Communication from the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** – Information on the updated list of measures adopted and enforced by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Maritime Administration as cited in the attached circular GEN 025 Rev. 16, in relation to the certification of seafarers and the survey and certification of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines flagged vessels.

These measures are also published on the official website of the Maritime Administration (www.svg-marad.com).
17. **Circular Letter No. 4681 (16 January 2023) - Report for the periodic review of the non-governmental international organizations in consultative status with IMO** – For attention to rule 12 of the Rules and Guidelines for Consultative Status of Non-Governmental International Organizations with the International Maritime Organization on the periodic review of the list of non-governmental international organizations and, in particular, to the third paragraph of the guidelines on its application. The deadline for the submission of reports is Friday, 31 March 2023.
18. **Circular Letter No. 4680 (17 January 2023) - Communication from the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil** – Statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the acts of coup-mongering violence that took place at the "Esplanada dos Ministérios" in Brasilia on the 8th of January 2023.

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

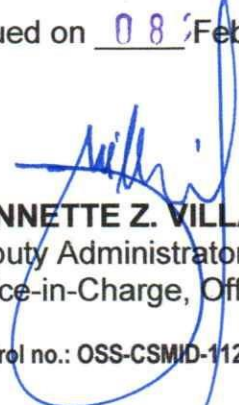


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Attention is therefore invited for all Philippine overseas shipping companies, shipowners, and other concerned maritime entities to observe any action/s you may deem appropriate.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

Issued on 08 February 2023 at Manila, Philippines.


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