



MARINA ADVISORY NO.: 2023-14

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 10 MAY 2023

Notice is hereby given on the following attached IMO Circular Letters published as of 10 May 2023:

1. **Circular Letter No. 4692 (17 February 2023) - *Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation*** – Information on the status of the implementation of the Istanbul agreements on food and fertilizer exports from the Black Sea region, in reference to the United Nations Secretariat's press-release of 18th January 2023 on the Black Sea Grain Initiative.
2. **Circular Letter No. 4653 (30 January 2023) - *Maritime Speakers Bureau – Enhancing the visibility of women in the maritime sector*** – Information on the created platform containing information on female experts in the maritime field to ensure that sector conferences and events have a diversity of thought and to increase the visibility of women in the maritime sector, provide diverse role models and simplify the process of finding speakers.

This platform has been launched as the Maritime Speakers Bureau, which can be accessed at the following link: <https://maritimespeakers.com>, and is free to register and be used by speakers and organizers.
3. **Circular Letter No. 4683 (3 February 2023) - *New IMO e-Learning course - Introduction to Marine Biofouling: Impacts and Management of Risks*** – Announcement on the launch of a new e-Learning course developed under the framework of the GEF-UNDP-IMO GloFouling Partnerships project, in collaboration with the World Maritime University (WMU). The project assists developing countries with the implementation of the IMO 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species (MEPC.207(62)).

The course is primarily aimed at any individual involved in or having an interest in matters related to invasive aquatic species and biofouling management. However, it is also adequate for students and the general public.



4. **Circular Letter No. 2554/Rev.4 (8 March 2023) - *Implementation of the IMO unique company and registered owner Identification number scheme (resolution MSC.160(78))*** – Invitation for Administrations to participate in the scheme to the extent they desire by assigning an IMO unique company and registered owner identification number to each company and/or registered owner managing ships of 100 gross tonnage and above not engaged in international voyages. The circular letter revokes Circular Letter No.2554/Rev.3.
5. **Circular Letter No. 4711 (30 March 2023) - *Communication from the Government of Ukraine*** – To reiterate its unconditional support for the safe departure of the foreign flagged vessels blocked in Ukrainian ports since 24 February 2022, once the security situation permits so and the Russian Federation provides explicit not-attack guarantees to ensure the safety of merchant ships and their crews, which remains a priority for Ukraine.
6. **Circular Letter No. 4237/Add.34 (31 March 2023) - *Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation*** – To stipulate the final stage of extension of validity of seafarer's qualification documents to 30th of June 2023 inclusive. Seafarers who are currently on board a ship on a voyage need to extend qualification documents upon return from voyage but not later than 1 July 2023.
7. **Circular Letter No. 4708 (4 April 2023) - *New IMO e-learning courses - Introduction to Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation*** – Announcement on the launch of the e-learning course "Introduction to Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation" in Spanish. Versions in other UN languages will be available at later stage. The English version, published in 2022, was the first of a number of e-learning courses developed by IMO, in collaboration with the World Maritime University (WMU) and several internationally renowned oil spill response specialists.

Enrolment on the course is free and is hosted on the IMO Learning Management System (LMS) platform that can be accessed through the IMO website or through the following URL: <https://lms.imo.org/moodle310/>.
8. **Circular Letter No. 4235/Add.9 (14 April 2023) - *Communication from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany*** – Information on the current measures of the German Flag, in relation to ship surveys that are now being carried out again, in which it will only waive surveys in exceptional circumstances, until 30 June 2023. In addition, refresher courses for seafarers are again being offered and conducted reliably so that all prerequisites for the renewal of certificates of competency can be met.



9. **Circular Letter No. 4714 (21 April 2023) - FSO SAFER – UN call for contributions towards oil spill response equipment** – The United Nation's (UN) call for in-kind contributions of spill response equipment, including used equipment, to support preparedness efforts, in the event of a spill from FSO SAFER, an aging floating storage offshore (FSO) unit containing an estimated 150,000 metric tonnes of oil cargo.

To assist the process, an indicative list of the required oil spill response equipment is set out at annex. Taking into account that operations are provisionally scheduled to initiate in early May 2023, it would be necessary for the required equipment to be in region as soon as practicably possible.

10. **Circular Letter No. 4232/Add.19 (21 April 2023) - Communication from the Government of Ukraine** – Information on the measures adopted and enforced by the Government of Ukraine due to the exceptional circumstances resulting from Russian armed aggression against Ukraine and COVID-19 Outbreak, which includes the validity of documents or certificates for seafarers currently ONBOARD and ASHORE, are now extended until the 31st of December 2023.

11. **Circular Letter No. 4262/Add.1 (21 April 2023) - Communication from the Government of Japan** – Termination of exceptional measures on validity of Seafarers' certificates under Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, as follows.

1. COC and Endorsement - ended on 31 March 2023.
2. COP and Medical Certificate - ended on 28 February 2023.

For more information, please contact the Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan at hqt-stcw-coc@ki.mlit.go.jp.

12. **Circular Letter No. 4713 (20 April 2023) - Illumination of the IMO building and other emblematic landmarks to mark World Maritime Day on 28 September 2023** – Invitation of the Secretary-General to IMO Member States to join in this annual initiative by lighting up their most iconic buildings, bridges, maritime ports, ships, monuments, museums and other emblematic landmarks in blue light in the evening of 28 September 2023.

To further give visibility to this project, social media participation is again encouraged via Twitter to share these powerful images by using the hashtag #WorldMaritimeDay. Photographs can also be sent to: media@imo.org.

13. **Circular Letter No. 4701 (18 April 2023) - World Maritime Day 2023** – Text of the IMO Secretary-General's message on the occasion of World Maritime Day 2023 to take place on 28 September 2023 with the theme "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on". Additionally, a video containing the said message is now available on the IMO website at: <https://www.imo.org/en/About/Events/Pages/World-Maritime-theme-2023.aspx>.



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 12 May 2023 at Manila, Philippines.


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Control no.: OSS-CSMID-1266

Date of Publication: 23 May 2023

Business Mirror

Date of Submission to ONAR: _____