



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

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MARINA ADVISORY

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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 31 JULY 2025

Notice is hereby given on the following attached IMO Circular Letters published as of 31 July 2025:

1. **Circular Letter No. 5040 - Communication from the Republic of Malawi - A** Communication from the Republic of Malawi, regarding the fraudulent use of the Malawi ship registry. The Malawian government reports that several foreign vessels, including tankers, are falsely operating under the Malawian flag and have been reported by Lloyd's List. Malawi clarifies that it currently does not have an international ship registry and considers these registrations fraudulent, having reported the issue to Interpol. Malawi urges the IMO to alert member states, encourage port states to detain these vessels for inspection, and support efforts to prevent such fraudulent activities, reaffirming its commitment to international maritime safety.
2. **Circular Letter No. 5043 - Communication from the Islamic Republic of Iran** - A communication from the Islamic Republic of Iran, dated June 27, 2025. In the communication, Iran brought to the IMO's attention an alleged "unlawful military attack" by the United States against Iranian sovereign territory on June 22, 2025, which reportedly targeted a peaceful nuclear facility. Iran stated this act, along with a prior aerial assault by the Israeli regime on June 13, constitutes a "flagrant violation of Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations". Iran also highlighted a "longstanding pattern of unlawful and aggressive behavior by the United States," including historical attacks on Iranian oil platforms and commercial vessels, and the 1988 downing of Iran Air Flight 655. Additionally, Iran asserted that the United States continues to impose "coercive maritime and economic measures" such as extraterritorial sanctioning of Iranian-flagged vessels and denial of access to essential maritime services. Iran stated that in response to the June 22 assault, it exercised its "inherent and legitimate right of self-defense" under Article 51 of the UN Charter and called upon the IMO to condemn the United States' military aggression.

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3. **Circular Letter No. 5046 - Communication from the State of Eritrea** - A communication from the State of Eritrea to all IMO Members, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. The Eritrean government wishes to inform all member states that it does not issue "Unlimited Certificates of Competency" and only issues "Near Coastal Voyages Certificates of Competency," which can be verified via their official email address, maritime@tse.com.er. They have identified a fraudulent website, maritime@tse.com.et, operating under the fake name "Eritrea Maritime Authority" and are working to stop these unauthorized activities. Eritrea has requested that the IMO bring this information to the attention of all maritime administrations, Flag States, and Port States, as fraudulent certificates pose a significant danger.

4. **Circular Letter No. 5051 - Communication from the Government of Ukraine** - An official letter from Mr. Mykola KRAVCHUK, Head of the State Service for Maritime and Inland Waterway Transport and Shipping of Ukraine, addresses the recent ballistic missile attack on the Odesa Commercial Sea Port. The assault resulted in injuries to four crew members, all nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic. Additionally, personnel working at the port—including employees of the port operator, dockworkers, and truck drivers—suffered even more severe consequences: two individuals were killed, and six others sustained injuries. This incident represents yet another in a series of Russian ballistic missile strikes targeting Ukraine's critical port infrastructure. These attacks, clear manifestations of the Russian Federation's ongoing armed aggression, continue to inflict casualties on seafarers and port workers who are engaged in ensuring the global supply of essential goods.

5. **Circular Letter No. 5042 - Amendment to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL), 1965** - The proposed amendment to the annex of the 1965 Convention on the Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic was approved by the Facilitation Committee at its forty-ninth session, held from 10 to 14 March 2025, for subsequent review and possible adoption at its fiftieth session. The approved amendment pertains to Recommended Practice 6.24. Pursuant to article VII(2)(a) of the Convention, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the aforementioned draft amendment for the Committee's consideration and potential adoption at its fiftieth session, scheduled to take place from 23 to 27 March 2026.

6. **Circular Letter No. 5056 - Communication from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste** - This is a communication from the General Director of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste regarding vessels suspected of possessing fraudulent registration certificates and operating under the Timor-Leste flag. The Ministry respectfully requests the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its Member States to take the necessary actions to halt the operations of these vessels. Furthermore, Timor-Leste does not currently maintain an international ship register. The IMO will be formally notified and invited to provide support in certifying all relevant procedures.

7. **Circular Letter No.5059 - Live-Launch of IMO Technical Cooperation Portal (TC Portal)** - On 31 July 2025, the "go-live" of the new IMO Technical Cooperation Portal (TC Portal) was officially announced. This initiative forms part of the Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division's ongoing efforts to enhance data transparency and information sharing across IMO's technical cooperation activities, while also promoting the harmonization, streamlining, and increased visibility of TC request submissions. Member State users with IMO Web Accounts will be able to access both tools via the TC Portal. A step-by-step guide for accessing the portal is provided in the annex. Guidance on the submission of TC requests, along with relevant templates, is available on the portal's landing page.

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 _____ at Manila, Philippines.


SONIA B. MALALUAN
Administrator 