



BAGONG PILIPINAS



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

DEC 16 2025

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 30 NOVEMBER 2025

Notice is hereby given on the following attached IMO Circular Letters published as of 30 November 2025:

- 1. Circular Letter No. 5088 - Communication from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** – There are a number of vessels which are not registered in Bermuda who are using Bermuda MMSI numbers and are reporting to be commercial fishing vessels. The Bermuda Administration would like to advise that the Bermuda Ship Registry is prohibited by Bermuda Law from registering internationally trading commercial fishing vessels. If Port State Control Officers or other officials find such vessels in their jurisdiction, suggest that this would warrant further investigation.
- 2. Circular Letter No. 5091 - Communication from the Government of the Gambia** - A number of vessels have been deregistered from the Gambia Maritime Administration's registry following the discovery that they had been sanctioned by the competent authorities of the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom. The Gambia Maritime Administration has requested Port State Control (PSC) officers to verify, upon the arrival of any vessel flying the Gambia flag, whether they are in possession of fraudulent certificates or other statutory documents purportedly issued by the Administration, to ensure compliance with international maritime regulations and to prevent the use of falsified documentation.
- 3. Circular Letter No. 5092 - Communication from the Government of the Republic of Benin** - There are 33 reported and investigated cases of fraudulent use of the Benin Flag by foreign vessels. A detailed list of these vessels is attached in the appendix. The acts constitute an unlawful appropriation of the Benin flag, in violation of the provisions of Law No. 2010-11 of 7 March 2011 on the Maritime Code of the Republic of Benin, as well as the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982).

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The majority of these vessels are mainly oil tankers which forged documents and falsified certificates. The falsified documents used by forgers include false signatures, a counterfeit government seal, created contact details and the mention of non-existent entity within Benin administration. The Government of Benin reaffirms its ongoing commitment to comply with international standards relating to maritime safety counterfeit government seal, created contact details and the mention of non-existent entity within Benin administration. The Government of Benin reaffirms its ongoing commitment to comply with international standards relating to maritime safety and marine environment protection, and remains willing to strengthen cooperation with the IMO in the fight against these illegal practices.

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.

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SONIA B. MALALUAN
Administrator 

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