REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

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 AUGUST 2026**

Notice is hereby given on the following attached IMO Circular Letters published as of 31 August 2026:

1. **Circular Letter No. 5253 - Communication from the Government of Ukraine** This communication is from the Government of Ukraine to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), dated 31 July 2026. The letter responds to a previous communication from Iran and clarifies Ukraine's position regarding its actions in self-defense against Russian aggression, as recognized by Article 51 of the UN Charter. Ukraine emphasizes that Russia's war of aggression is the root cause of instability and loss of life, and calls on Iran to cease supporting Russia. The letter also highlights recent incidents where Iranian forces attacked vessels carrying Ukrainian citizens in the Strait of Hormuz and Omani territorial waters, resulting in injuries. Ukraine rejects Iran's allegations of aggression and requests that the note be circulated as an official IMO document.

2. **Circular Letter No. 5250 - Communication from the Islamic Republic of Iran** - The Circular Letter conveys the Islamic Republic of Iran's condemnation of the attack on the Iranian search and rescue vessels NAJI-15 and NAJI-16, stationed at Bandar Abbas. Iran states that the vessels were part of its civilian maritime search and rescue system and performed an exclusively humanitarian function, assisting persons in distress at sea regardless of nationality, flag, or status. The Circular also emphasizes Iran's position on maritime safety, security, and environmental protection, highlighting the importance of international cooperation, compliance with applicable maritime regulations, and dialogue in addressing common maritime challenges.

3. **Circular Letter No. 5256 - Communication from the Government of the State of Kuwait** - The Embassy of the State of Kuwait condemns the attack on the Kuwaiti-flagged tanker KAIFAN while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel was struck by a projectile, causing extensive damage to its engine room, rendering it unable to sail, and injuring several crew members. Kuwait calls on

Iran to immediately cease such attacks, provide clarification, prevent recurrence, and refrain from actions that endanger the safety of international navigation and global energy supplies. Kuwait further holds Iran responsible for the consequences of the incident and what it describes as continuing aggression against Kuwait.

4. **Circular Letter No. 5257 - Communication from the Government of the State of Kuwait** - The Government of the State of Kuwait strongly condemns the attack on the Kuwaiti tanker AL JABRIYA 2 while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. The crude oil tanker was struck by an object, drone, or projectile, causing hull damage, a fire, and a minor oil spill after two cargo tanks were damaged. Kuwait demands that Iran cease such attacks, clarify the incident, prevent its recurrence, and refrain from actions that threaten international navigation and global energy supplies. Kuwait also holds Iran responsible for the consequences of the attack. The statement further emphasizes that freedom of navigation is a fundamental principle of international maritime law, citing Articles 87 and 90 of UNCLOS 1982 concerning freedom of navigation and passage, and Article 301 concerning the prohibition on the use of force inconsistent with the Convention.

5. **Circular Letter No. 5258 - Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation** - The circular reports an attack by the Armed Forces of Ukraine using two unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) against the container vessel "Yanina" (IMO No. 9301304), a Russian-flagged merchant vessel carrying exclusively civilian cargo and en route from India to Novorossiysk. The attack caused critical damage, resulting in the vessel sinking. The crew of the vessel "Delphinus" responded to the incident and rescued 16 of the 17 crew members, while the remaining crew member was subsequently rescued by naval aviation of the Black Sea Fleet. All 17 crew members were rescued and reported to be in satisfactory condition.

6. **Circular Letter No. 5259 - Communication from the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic** - This letter is an official communication from the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic. It states that the Kyrgyz Republic has not authorized any individual or entity, domestic or foreign, to register, operate, or use sea-going vessels under the Kyrgyz flag. Any such use without official authorization is considered illegal and carries no legal consequences for the Kyrgyz Republic. The Ministry requests the IMO to circulate this information to prevent unauthorized use of the Kyrgyz flag. Additionally, the document confirms the appointment of Musaev Bekzhan Muratbekovich as the official representative of Maritime Register LLC in Kyrgyzstan and provides supporting registration details for the company.

7. **Circular Letter No. 5260 - Communication from the Government of Ukraine** - Ukraine's letter to the International Maritime Organization reports that, during July and early August 2026, Russian forces attacked 52 vessels—mainly bulk carriers—transporting commercial cargo to and from Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea. These attacks caused numerous deaths, injuries, and left many ships

prices. Ukraine urges international action to protect navigation, ensure accountability, and maintain the safe operation of maritime trade routes.

8. **Circular Letter No. 5261 - Communication from the Government of the United Arab Emirates -** This circular letter from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) condemns recent Iranian attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. The UAE asserts that these actions violate international law and United Nations Security Council resolution 2817 (2026), which protects freedom of navigation in international waterways. The letter calls for immediate international action to ensure the safety of seafarers, secure navigation, and protect the marine environment, emphasizing that Iran's continued actions pose a serious threat to regional and global security.

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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