



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-4

Rev. Feb/2017

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

SUBJECT: Issuance and Use of Statutory Certificates

- References:**
- (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, Consolidated Edition 2014*, Chapter I, Part B, as amended
 - (b) **ISM Code**, *International Safety Management Code, 2014 Edition*, as amended
 - (c) **ISPS CODE**, *International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, 2012 Edition*, as amended
 - (d) **IACS Recommendation No. 98**, *Duties of Surveyors under Statutory Convention and Codes, 2007*, as amended
 - (e) **RMI Marine Notice [2-011-26](#)**, *Application for Service Extensions/Dispensations*
 - (f) **RMI Marine Notice [2-013-4](#)**, *Approval for Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plans for Oil and/or Noxious Liquid Substances for Republic of the Marshall Islands Ships*

PURPOSE:

This Notice clarifies terminology used to describe statutory certificates and establishes the policy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) for their issuance and use. This Notice supersedes Rev. 08/06. It has been updated to incorporate International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Recommendation No. 98 (IACS Rec. No. 98) and to reflect relevant provisions of the Administrator’s Recognized Organization (RO) Agreements.

APPLICABILITY:

This Notice applies to all RMI flagged vessels and all Classification Societies and Appointed Representatives acting on behalf of the Administrator as an RO.

REQUIREMENTS:

1.0 Statutory Certificates

With regards to the issuance and use of statutory certificates, the following policy applies.

1.1 Acceptable Forms

Statutory certificates must be issued as either a “Full Term” certificate, an “Interim” certificate, or a “Short Term” certificate.

1.2 Full Term

A Full Term certificate may be issued upon satisfactory completion of an initial or renewal survey indicating that the ship and its equipment meet the applicable provisions of a particular convention. A Full Term certificate may also be issued or re-issued when all deficiencies, which may have led to the issuance of a Short Term certificate, are corrected. The certificate is issued in the format prescribed by the applicable Convention with a term of validity as set forth in that Convention.

1.3 Interim

- .1 An Interim certificate may be issued by an attending Surveyor upon satisfactory completion of a survey in order to permit the ship to trade while the Full Term certificate is being prepared by the RO’s head or regional office.
- .2 Where a change of flag and/or ownership has taken place with no change of RO necessitating the re-issuance of Full Term certificates, Interim certificates should be issued while Full Term certificates are being prepared for the balance of the term of the preceding certificates.
- .3 An Interim certificate shall normally be valid for no longer than five (5) months from the date of issuance.
- .4 These certificates are not to be confused with those issued under the International Safety Management (ISM) Code, International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, and Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006 by ROs and Recognized Security Organizations (RSOs), which allow ships to operate during the implementation periods allotted for safety management systems and security plans.

1.4 Short Term

- .1 Provided there is not a detainable deficiency (refer to Annex A, [IACS Rec. No. 98](#)), the RO may issue a Short Term certificate to allow a vessel to proceed to sea, with deficiencies that cannot be corrected in the port of survey, to a port where the permanent repairs are to be made.
- .2 Where a Detainable Deficiency or serious safety-related matter has been discovered and a temporary measure(s) related to that deficiency is imposed, the vessel owner or operator must provide a proposal for corrective action(s) to the RO who shall review the proposal and provide a detailed recommendation to the Administrator on actions to be taken by the owner or operator to address the

deficiency or defect. The written approval of the Administrator is to be obtained before a Short Term certificate is issued. In such cases, the Short Term certificate shall be issued to replace the Full Term certificate.

- .3 Any detainable deficiency must be relegated to minor status, to the satisfaction of the attending Surveyor, before the vessel will be allowed to proceed under a Short Term certificate.
- .4 Short Term certificates must:
 - a. provide for a generally equivalent level of safety, where possible;
 - b. provide for a specified period of time before expiration during which more acceptable and permanent full compliance will be provided; and
 - c. be limited in validity to a period not exceeding two (2) months, except when specifically allowed in writing by the Administrator.
- .5 These certificates are not to be confused with those issued under the ISM and ISPS Codes which allow ships to operate after successful audits for safety management systems and security plans while Full Term certification is being prepared by the head or regional office of the RO or RSO.
- .6 The owner/operator is responsible for making certain that conditions on board a vessel do not deteriorate after the issuance of a Short Term certificate and that the deficiency is rectified in accordance with the conditions on the certificate.
- .7 The RO is required to monitor and follow up on vessels issued Short Term certificates, especially when the owner/operator has allowed the certificate to expire.

2.0 Conditions of Authority, Statutory Memos/Conditions/Recommendations/Deficiencies (or equivalent wording)

- .1 In cases where a Short Term certificate is not required (see §1.4, above), the RO may issue a temporary Condition of Authority/Statutory Memo/Condition/Recommendation/ Deficiency, with an assigned due date to allow a vessel to proceed to sea, with minor findings that cannot be corrected in the port of survey, to a port where the permanent repairs are to be made. Alternatively, the Condition of Authority/Statutory Memo/Condition/Recommendation/ Deficiency may be issued for the time needed to rectify the deficiency.

3.0 Electronic statutory and class certificates and survey reports

- .1 Subject to prior review and acceptance by the Administrator in writing of the form of the certificates and the procedures an RO has in place, the Administrator hereby authorizes the issuance of electronic statutory and class certificates and

survey reports by the RO on behalf of the Administrator. Electronic certificates, however, must conform to the IMO Circular FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev2, “Guidelines for the Use of Electronic Certificates”, as may be amended.

4.0 Re-approval of documents after change of flag or class (RO)

- .1 The Administrator considers that the following documents should not need to be re-approved upon flag change (and Class entry) if they were previously approved by another Administration signatory to the same convention or another RO authorized by the Administrator.
- .2 List of documents:
 - Cargo Securing Manual
 - Technical File for marine diesel engine
 - Oil Discharge Monitoring System (ODM)
 - ODME manual
 - Ship Structure Access Manual
 - STS Operation Plan
 - Ballast Water Management Plan, D1 standard (D2 to be re-approved) (in force from Sep 2017)
 - Volatile Organic Compounds Management Plan (VOC)
 - Document of approval for the stability instrument (applicable at the first scheduled renewal survey of the ship on or after 01 January 2016, but not later than 01 January 2021)
 - SOPEPs and SMPEPs – Refer to RMI Marine Notice [2-013-4](#).