



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Marine Notice

BUREAU OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

AFS-001
9/08

TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS, AGENTS, LIBERIAN AUDITORS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS

SUBJECT: International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001

**Reference: (a) Anti-fouling Systems Convention, 2001
(b) Resolution MEPC.102(48)**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this note is to advise that the Republic of Liberia is a Party to the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001 (AFS Convention) and to provide information on the Liberian Flag State Administration's actions for implementation.

The AFS Convention entered into force on 17 September 2008.

APPLICABILITY:

The AFS Convention applies to all registered ships regardless of tonnage. Under the AFS Convention "ship" means a vessel of any type whatsoever operating in the marine environment and includes hydrofoil boats, air-cushion vehicles, submersibles, floating craft, fixed or floating platforms, floating storage units (FSUs) and floating production storage and off-loading units (FPSOs).

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1.0** Under the AFS Convention, ships are not permitted to apply or re-apply organotin compounds which act as biocides in their anti-fouling systems; ships either shall not carry such compounds on their hulls or external parts or surface or, in the case of ships that already carry such compounds on their hulls, will have to apply a coating that forms a barrier to prevent them leaching from the underlying non-compliant anti-fouling systems.
- 1.1** Prior to its entry into force on 17 September 2008, the AFS Convention called for earlier controls, including a global prohibition on the application/reapplication of organotin compounds which act as biocides in anti-fouling systems on ships by 1 January 2003, and a complete prohibition by 1 January 2008.

- 1.2 Therefore it is expected that as of 17 September 2008, ships should now be in compliance and:
- a. shall not bear such compounds on their hulls or external parts or surfaces; or
 - b. shall bear a coating that forms a barrier to such compounds leaching from the underlying non-compliant anti-fouling systems.
- 1.3 This does not apply to fixed and floating platforms, FSUs, and FPSOs that have been constructed prior to 1 January 2003 and that have not yet been in dry-dock since that date.

2.0 Implementation

- 2.1 The Administration may authorize ships that are not in compliance on 17 September 2008 to have a compliant coating applied at the first scheduled drydocking survey due after that date. The Administration will not grant exemptions or extensions beyond that date.
- 2.2 Other States that are Party to the AFS Convention have indicated their intention to require ships entering their ports or offshore terminals to demonstrate compliance. The European Union has adopted Commission Regulation (EC) no 536/2008, which calls for such action. Shipowners and operators should make every effort to ensure that their ships are able to demonstrate compliance in order to avoid delays or barring from the waters of a Party State.

3.0 Survey and Certification

- 3.1 Ships of above 400 gross tonnage engaged in international voyages, excluding fixed and floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs, are required to carry on board a valid International Anti-fouling System Certificate along with a Record of Anti-fouling Systems verifying compliance with the convention.
- 3.2 An initial survey shall be carried out for a new building or for an existing ship, before the International Anti-fouling System Certificate is issued for the first time.
- 3.3 Ships that have an anti-fouling system that was applied before 17 September 2008, shall undertake the Initial Survey and Certification no later than 17 September 2010.
- 3.4 A survey should also be carried out when the anti-fouling system is changed or replaced. While repairs generally do not require a survey, repairs that affect more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the anti-fouling system should be considered a change or replacement.
- 3.5 The Administration has delegated Survey and Certification functions to the Recognized Organizations (ROs) authorized to act on its behalf in accordance with Regulation 1(4) of Annex 4 of the AFS Convention.
- 3.6 Ships of 24 meters or more in length, but less than 400 gross tonnage engaged on international voyages, excluding fixed or floating platforms, FSUs, and FPSOs, are required to carry on board a Declaration of Anti-Fouling System signed by the owner or the owner's authorized agent in accordance with Regulation 5 of Annex 4 of the AFS Convention. The Declaration shall be accompanied by documentation, such as paint receipt or a contractor

invoice, or contain an appropriate endorsement. A copy of the Declaration shall be sent to the Administration's Technical Department at: technical@liscr.com.

4.0 Survey and Certification Prior to 17 September 2008

- 4.1 Prior to 17 September 2008, the Administration authorized ROs to conduct surveys of ships to document compliance with the AFS convention, establish a Record of Anti-fouling Systems and issue a Statement of Compliance.
- 4.2 Ships with a Statement of Compliance and an up to date Record of Anti-fouling Systems, may be issued an International Anti-fouling System Certificate by the ship's RO.

5.0 Validity of Certificates

The International Anti-fouling System Certificate ceases to be valid when the anti-fouling system is changed or replaced or is not endorsed in accordance with the AFS convention or upon transfer of the ship to the flag of another State.

6.0 Transfer of Flag

The Administration may issue a new International Anti-fouling System Certificate for a ship transferring into the registry based on the certificate issued by the previous Administration, provided the previous Administration is a Party to the Convention, the Record of Anti-fouling Systems is up to date and the certificate is valid at the time of the transfer. This Administration may request, on a case by case basis in accordance with the AFS convention, that the previous Administration provide a copy of the previously issued certificate and relevant survey reports.