



REPUBLIC of LIBERIA

Marine Notice

**BUREAU OF
MARITIME AFFAIRS**

**INS-003
11/02**

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND AUTHORIZED CLASSIFICATION
SOCIETIES**

SUBJECT: National Safety Requirements for Miscellaneous Vessels.

**References: (a) Marine Notice INS-001
(b) Marine Notice INS-002**

Supersedes: Marine Notice 2-035-2 dated 1/98

PURPOSE:

There has been some confusion as to what certificates should be carried by those vessels which are not covered by the international conventions. This notice clarifies the National safety requirements of The Republic of Liberia and standardizes the procedures for the issuance of a "National Cargo Ship Safety Certificate" to certain categories of vessels:

APPLICABILITY:

Vessels not expressly covered by the Safety of Life at Sea Convention 1974, should generally comply with SOLAS '74 and all subsequent amendments to the extent that this is practical. In accordance with SOLAS '74, Regulation 1 and 3 of Chapter 1, these vessels are:

- Reg. 1 (a) vessels not engaged on international voyages;
- Reg. 3 (ii) cargo ships of less than 500 gross tons;
- (iii) ships not propelled by mechanical means;
- (iv) pleasure yachts not engaged in trade; and
- (vi) fishing vessels.

Vessels not expressly covered by the International Convention on Load Lines (LL '66), as amended, should generally conform to its requirements to the extent that this is practical. Pleasure yachts, fishing vessels, vessels of less than 24 meters in length, vessels of less than 150 gross tons, and vessels not engaged on international voyages are not covered by the Load Line Convention.

This Marine Notice does not apply to vessels or units provided for under the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Codes or The Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships, [IMO Resolution A.534 (13)]

REQUIREMENTS:

1.0 Qualifying vessels

- 1.1 In order to clarify and standardize procedures, a "National Cargo Ship Safety Certificate" will be issued to the following categories of Liberian vessels:
- (a) all vessels of less than 24 meters but not under 12 meters in length;
 - (b) all vessels of less than 500 gross tons but not under 20 net tons; and
 - (c) all fishing vessels not engaged in Liberian Coastal Trade.
- 1.2 A vessel not otherwise falling within sub-paragraphs (a), (b), or (c) above, but exclusively engaged in the Liberian fishery or the Liberian coastwise trade, may be issued a "National Cargo Ship Safety Certificate" upon request to the relevant Classification Society.

2.0 Certification

- 2.1 Owners of the qualifying vessels shall request a National Cargo Ship Safety Certificate be issued, and all surveys necessary for issuance and maintenance of the validity of the certificate to be carried out by the vessel's Classification Society.
- 2.2 The title of the Certificate may be modified to reflect the type of vessel to which it is issued.
- 2.3 The Certificate will be issued to all vessels upon completion of an Initial Survey which is carried out concurrently with the surveys required for registration.
- 2.4 The Certificate will be valid for five years, running concurrently with the 5 year Classification period between special surveys, but will be subject to annual verification surveys by the Classification Society's surveyors, who will endorse the Certificate accordingly. The Annual Survey should be conducted between three months before and three months after the anniversary of the Initial Survey date.
- 2.5 A copy of the Certificate is to be sent to Technical & Communications in Vienna, VA for filing and verification.

3.0 Initial And Annual Safety Inspections

- 3.1 The Safety Inspection procedures applicable to all Liberian Flag vessels shall be followed as defined in Marine Notices INS-001 and INS-002.

4.0 Surveys

- 4.1 The content of the survey is to be sufficient for the surveyor to verify that the vessel and its equipment are in a satisfactory condition for the intended service.
- 4.2 The survey should include an inspection of fire fighting equipment, lifesaving equipment and an operational check of the radio equipment.

4.3 Verification of hull integrity, watertight closing arrangements and machinery status will be covered by maintenance in Class.

5.0 Modifications and Alterations

5.1 No modifications or alterations will be required in existing approved arrangements. However, where the provision of equipment falls below generally accepted international standards or normal good shipbuilding practice, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, in consultation with the relevant Classification Society and the owner, specifies the number and/or type of units of equipment to be carried.

6.0 Radio Equipment

6.1 All certificated vessels must comply with the requirements of Chapter IV, Regulation 4, of SOLAS '74, with the '78,'81 and '83 amendments, unless alternative arrangements are approved by the Office of the Deputy Commissioner.

6.2 Cargo Ships over 300 gross tons will, in addition to the National Cargo Ship Safety Certificate, be required to comply with the requirements of the new Chapter IV (GMDSS) as stated in the 1988 Amendments.

7.0 Load Lines

7.1 All certificated vessels must comply with the requirements of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended, with the sole exception of the requirements for marking and freeboard computation, unless alternative arrangements are approved by the Administration.

7.2 New vessels of 24 meters or more in length and existing vessels of 150 gross tons or over, engaged on any international voyage, will in addition to the National Cargo Ship Safety Certificate be required to carry an International Load Line Certificate.

8.0 MARPOL

All vessels will be required to comply with the requirements of MARPOL '73/78.

9.0 Yachts

9.1 Pleasure yachts are included, together with fishing vessels, barges, sailing vessels and wooden ships, within the term "vessels" as used in Section 1 of this Notice.

9.2 Pleasure yachts not engaged in trade do not require SOLAS Certificates regardless of size. However, owners of pleasure yachts may, on voluntary basis, apply for full SOLAS-equivalent certification and, provided the required surveys are conducted, the relevant Classification Society will issue an appropriate SOLAS equivalent certificate.

9.3 Nevertheless, it should be noted that pleasure yachts should be in compliance with classification rule requirements, and with the provisions of the Load Line and SOLAS Conventions as far as reasonable and practicable, including the radio and radar requirements and the 1972 Collision Regulations as amended; and, if over 400 gross tons, yachts should also be in compliance with the provisions of MARPOL '73/'78, as applicable.

10.0 Offshore Units

All FSO (Floating, Storage and Off-Loading), FPSO (Floating, Production, Storage, and Off-Loading) and FPU (Floating Offshore Production Unit) vessels will be issued a "Liberian Mobile Offshore Unit Safety Certificate." (See Marine Notice TEC-007).