



Office of
Deputy Commissioner
of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

Marine Notice

TEC-009
Rev. 06/12

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

SUBJECT: Mobile Offshore Units

Reference:

- (a) **RLM-108, Regulation 2.35**
- (b) **Liberian National MODU/MOU Standards Publication RLM-293**
- (c) **1989 MODU Code - IMO Res. A.649(16)**
- (d) **MSC-MEPC.2/Circular 9**
- (d) **IMO Resolution MEPC.139(53)**
- (e) **IMO Resolution MEPC.142(54)**
- (f) **Liberian Marine Notice MAN-004**

PURPOSE:

The Republic of Liberia's Authorized Standards for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs) and Mobile Offshore Units (MOUs), RLM 293, provides the Administration's technical guidelines for the inspection and certification of existing Liberian flagged MODUs and all Liberian flagged MOUs. This Marine Notice provides additional clarification on the application of the guidelines in RLM-283 with respect to MOUs. Owners, Operators and Classification Societies are to be guided by RLM 293 and this Marine Notice in preparation for the inspection and certification of MOUs for the Liberia flag.

APPLICABILITY:

This Marine Notice is applicable to all Liberian flagged manned MOUs, both existing and newbuilds. Mobile Offshore Units (MOUs) are manned vessels used in support of exploration or exploitation of offshore resources, construction or servicing of offshore facilities and may include the following vessel types:

- FSO (Floating, Storage and Off-Loading)
- FPSO (Floating, Production, Storage, and Off-Loading)
- FPU (Floating Offshore Production Unit)
- FSU (Floating Storage Units)
- Non self-propelled accommodation vessels
- Non self-propelled construction vessels
- Non self-propelled crane and pipelaying vessels
- Other non-self-propelled non-cargo or passenger vessels as designated by the Administration

MOUs may be configured like drilling units, but cannot be outfitted with drilling equipment. Self-

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Inquiries concerning the subject of this Notice should be directed to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Republic of Liberia, the Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry, LLC, 8619 Westwood Center Dr., Suite 300, Vienna, VA 22182 USA
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propelled MOUs, other than FPSO, FSOs, FSUs, may be subject to compliance with the Special Purpose Ship Code as determined by the Administration.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Compliance Requirements for New and Existing Units

1.1 All Liberian flag NOUs, unless exempted by the Administration, are normally required to obtain the certificates listed below

- a. The proper class certification
- b. Load Line Certificate
- c. International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate
- d. Financial Responsibility Certificate
- e. Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate
- f. International Tonnage Certificate
- g. International Labor Organization Conventions ILO 92 and ILO 133 Crew Accommodation Certificates
- h. Liberian National Mobile Offshore Unit Certificate
- i. Ship Radio Station License
- j. Minimum Safe Manning Certificate

1.2 Requirements for obtaining certificates a thru g listed above are those found in the applicable class society, SOLAS, ILO, or MARPOL rules.

1.3 The requirements for obtaining the Liberian National Mobile Offshore Unit Certificate can be found in Section 3.0 of reference d, the Liberian Publication RLM 293. The guidelines in RLM 293 address lifesaving equipment, firefighting systems and equipment, machinery and electrical installations, and special operating requirements. The provisions of the 1989 MODU Code relating to these areas are normally used as the standards for Liberian flag MOUs. However these requirements may be modified as necessary to address the specific design and operation of each MOU.

Standards, other than the MODU Code, addressing the above mentioned areas may be acceptable if they provide a level of safety generally equivalent to the MODU Code requirements.

It should be noted that additional specific requirements applicable to each MOU due to the variety of designs, operating conditions, and shore based support will be determined and modified as necessary by the Administration on a case by case base.

1.4 The requirements for obtaining a Ship Radio Station License can be found in Marine Notices RAD-001 and RAD-002.

1.5 The requirements for obtaining a Minimum Safe Manning Certificate (MSMC) can be found in Marine Notice MAN-004. A MSMC will be issued to all Liberian flagged MOUs based on the nature of the MOUs operation and the manning scales established by the Administration in Marine Notice MAN-004. In general for non-self-propelled FPSO/FSO/FSU the manning will be similar to that of a non-self-propelled MODU with the possible addition of tankermen. Self-propelled FPSO/FSOs will be manned as a tankship

when underway. Consideration may be given to a lesser degree of manning when a self-propelled FPSO/FSO/FSU is on site. The exact vessel manning for other MOUs will be determined by the vessel's design, nature of its operation, and the guidelines in MAN-004.

- 1.5.1 Self-propelled FPSO/FSO/FSUs, depending on their design and nature of their operations, may also be required to obtain a Safety Construction Certificate, a Safety Equipment Certificate, and meet certain tank ship requirements. Self-propelled FPSO/FSO/FSU will also be required to comply with the ISM Code.
- 1.6 FPSO/FSO/FSUs should comply with SOLAS chapter XI2 and the ISPS Code, as applicable, in order to facilitate the interaction between FPSOs/FSUs and other ships. If required by the coastal state to obtain a Ship Security Certificate, the Liberian Administration will review the vessel's ship security plan and assist the ship owners in obtaining ISPS Code certificates.
- 1.7 Non-self-propelled MOUs are not required by the Liberian Administration to comply with the ISM Code or the ISPS Code. However the Liberian Administration recommends that the MOU complies with SOLAS Chapter X12 and the ISPS Code, as applicable to facilitate interaction between the MOU and other ships.
 - 1.7.1 It is recommend that all non-self-propelled MOU, including non-self-propelled FPSO/FSO/FSUs develop an emergency response procedure to address the safety and pollution risks associated with marine and production systems and operations, taking into account the MARPOL Convention, the ISM Code and other appropriate guidelines. If the coastal state in whose waters the MOU is located requires full compliance with the ISM Code the Liberian Administration will review the vessel's safety management system and ship security plan and assist the ship owners in obtaining ISM Code and ISPS Code certificates.
- 1.8 The Administration will issue to MOUs, including self-propelled FPSO, FSO, FSUs, vessel or site specific equivalencies or exemptions from the applicable requirements of the Load Line, MARPOL, SOLAS, or the provisions of ILO depending on the vessel's configuration, location, or operation and subject to the agreement of the applicable coastal/port state, where appropriate.

2. Surveys and Certification Requirements

Mobile Offshore Units are eligible for the Liberian National MOU Certificate upon satisfactory compliance with the applicable requirements of RLM 293 and those stated in this Marine Notice. The MOU Certificate shall be valid for five years running concurrently with the five (5) year classification survey period.

- 2.1 An Initial Survey is required before entering service or before a MOU Safety Certificate is issued for the first time.
- 2.2 An Annual Survey must be performed between three (3) months before and three (3) months after the anniversary date of the initial MOU survey. MOU surveys can be harmonized with the vessel's annual classification survey. On satisfactory completion of the Annual Surveys, the Certificate is to be endorsed to maintain the validity.

- 2.3 Upon expiration of the MOU Safety Certificate a renewal survey renewal is required. The certificate renewal survey may be carried out in conjunction with the Special Survey or class renewal survey. The content of the renewal surveys is as specified in the RLM 293 and this Marine Notice.
- 2.4 MOUs will be subject to Annual Liberian Safety Inspections (ASIs) to be performed between 30 days before and 30 days after the vessel registration anniversary date. The inspections are to be carried out by an authorized Liberian Nautical Inspector, unless other arrangements are authorized by the Administration.
- 2.5 The National MOU Safety Certificates will replace all of the SOLAS Safety Certificates that may have been previously issued, except for Safety Radio and ISM Code, if applicable. However, a unit which embarks upon an international voyage under its own power may be required to be provided with SOLAS Certificates such as Safety Construction and Safety Equipment. In circumstances such as this, please contact this Administration and, or the Classification Society.
- 2.6 All MOUs must have valid IOPP Certificates, IAPP certificates if applicable, Load Line Certificates, ITC 69 Certificates, and a ILO Convention 92/133 Crew Accommodation Certificate. Annual and periodic surveys for these certificates shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the applicable regulation/convention.

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