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

SUBJECT: Reporting Suspected Certificate Fraud

(b) RMI Maritime Act (MI-107)
(c) RMI Maritime Regulations (MI-108)
(d) RMI Requirements for Seafarer Certification (MI-118)

PURPOSE

This Notice sets out the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator’s (the “Administrator’s”) requirements for reporting suspected seafarer certificate fraud.

It supersedes Rev. Apr/2018. Section 2.2 was added to include Administrator action.

BACKGROUND

RMI Maritime Regulations (MI-108), §7.38, require all RMI-flagged vessels to be operated safely, with due regard to security, and to have enough properly trained and certificated seafarers on board. See also RMI Marine Notice 7-038-2.

The RMI Requirements for Seafarer Certification (MI-118) provide that only certificated seafarers who possess the necessary technical skills for their respective responsibilities are permitted to perform duties onboard RMI-flagged commercial vessels. Seafarers holding fraudulent certifications are a danger to themselves, others on board, and the marine environment.

APPLICABILITY

This Notice applies to all RMI-certificated seafarers.
REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Suspected Certificate Fraud

1.1 Shipowners, operators, crewing agents, and Masters must immediately report to the Administrator any evidence or suspicion that an RMI seafarer’s certificate was obtained fraudulently.

2.0 Reporting Procedure

2.1 Reporting suspected fraud must be made by email to Seafarers’ Documentation at: Seafarers@register-iri.com. The reports must include as much of the following information as possible:

1. name, date of birth, and nationality of the seafarer involved;
2. address of the seafarer;
3. nature of the suspected fraud (e.g., counterfeit, bribery in obtaining foreign certificate submitted for an equivalent RMI certificate; forgery; sea service falsification, etc.);
4. original suspected fraudulent document or a copy of it;
5. capacity in which the seafarer is, was, or will be employed on the vessel and the vessel name, and, if not an RMI registered vessel, then the registry country;
6. all RMI certificate numbers, Seafarers Identification and Record Book (SIRB) Number, or File Identification Number (FIN), for the seafarer in question, and a description of the specific certificate involved, including grade and issuing country;
7. other person(s) or organization(s) that may have been involved in the fraudulent certificate procurement; and
8. other information that may be useful for investigation of this matter.

2.2 Administrator Action

1. On receiving a suspected fraud report, the Administrator will attempt to verify the document. If no valid record exists or a discrepancy is found, an investigation will be initiated in accordance with the Administrator’s Rules for Marine Investigations and Administrative Proceedings (MI-260).

1. This is an RMI National requirement. See MI-107, §109.
2. See guidance contained in Sub-Committee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping - STW 38/17, Annex 1, 8 February 2007.
.2 The Administrator may apply administrative, civil, and criminal penalties for fraud associated with the falsification of seafarer documentation as provided by the RMI Maritime Act (MI-107), Maritime Regulations (MI-108), Requirements for Seafarer Certification (MI-118) and MI-260.

3.0 Verification of Seafarer Documentation

3.1 RMI seafarers’ documentation can be verified as provided in Marine Notice 1-109-1:

.1 online at: www.register-iri.com by selecting Officer/Seafarer Verification from the “SEAFARERS’ DOCUMENTATION” menu;

.2 with a smart phone or electronic reader by scanning the Quick Response Code embedded on the certificate; or

.3 by emailing Seafarers@Register-iri.com.

3.2 When the original seafarer’s documentation has been ordered and shipped, but not yet received by the seafarer, online or electronic verification should be attempted before contacting the Administrator.