



**REPUBLIC OF  
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
**MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

**Marine Notice**

**No. 1-004-2**

**Rev. Mar/2021**

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

**SUBJECT: Reporting Suspected Certificate Fraud**

**References:** (a) *STCW including 2010 Manila Amendments: STCW Convention and STCW Code: International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 2017 Edition*  
(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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto:Seafarers@register-iri.com). The reports must include as much of the following information<sup>2</sup> 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](#)).

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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](http://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](mailto: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.