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

SUBJECT: Carriage of Grain.

References: (a) International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS ’74), as amended
(b) MSC/Circ.363, adopted 25 April 1983
(c) MSC/Circ.488, adopted 6 June 1988
(d) Marshall Islands Maritime Act, Chapter 4, Part I, Section 404

PURPOSE:

This Notice is to advise Owners and Masters of their responsibility to ensure that their ships are properly approved for grain loading and that neither the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) nor its authorized Agents will be responsible for the consequence of improper or inadequate documentation which fails to meet the requirements of the Marshall Islands regulations or the legislation of any port State. This Notice supersedes Rev. 8/06 and has been revised to reflect editorial corrections, rather than substantive changes.

APPLICABILITY:

The provisions of Chapter VI of SOLAS will be applied in full to all approvals of grain loading arrangements for Marshall Islands flagged vessels of greater than 20 gross tons including non-self-propelled barges constructed or utilized for the carriage of grain.

REQUIREMENTS:

1.0 Grain loading arrangements for all Marshall Islands ships will be approved in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI of reference (a) above. However, approvals granted to vessels built prior to May 1980 in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 12 of Chapter VI, SOLAS 1960, IMO Resolution A.264(VIII), or IMO Resolution A.184(VI) will remain valid.
2.0  The contents of MSC/Circ. 363 are to be taken into consideration when applying Part C of Chapter VI “Strength of Grain Division.”

3.0  Loading plans, calculations and other data related to grain loading arrangements offered for approval are required to be submitted directly to a full member of the International Association of Classification Societies or the National Cargo Bureau, Inc. All of these organizations have been duly authorized by the Marshall Islands as Agents for approving the grain loading arrangements for Marshall Islands flagged ships. These organizations have been further authorized to issue official grain loading certificates on behalf of the Administrator.