



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-36

Rev. Feb/2022

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

SUBJECT: National Safety Requirements for Vessels Carrying Persons in Addition to Crew

- References:**
- (a) **IMO Resolution [A.863\(20\)](#)**, *Code of Safe Practice for the Carriage of Cargoes and Persons by Offshore Supply Vessels (OSV Code)*, adopted 27 November 1997
 - (b) **IMO Resolution [MSC.235\(82\)](#)**, *Guidelines for the Design and Construction of Offshore Supply Vessels, 2006*, adopted 01 December 2006, and amended by IMO Resolution [MSC.335\(90\)](#), adopted 22 May 2012
 - (c) **IMO Resolution [MSC.418\(97\)](#)**, *Interim Recommendations on the Safe Carriage of More Than 12 Industrial Personnel On Board Vessels Engaged on International Voyages*, adopted 25 November 2016
 - (d) **IMO [MSC-MEPC.7/Circ.10](#)**, *Guidance on Safety When Transferring Persons At Sea*, adopted 14 July 2014
 - (e) **RMI Marine Notice MN [2-011-13](#)**, *International Safety Management (ISM) Code*
 - (f) **RMI Marine Notice MN [2-011-16](#)**, *International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code*
 - (g) **RMI Marine Notice [2-011-34](#)**, *Special Purpose Ships*
 - (h) **RMI Marine Notice [2-011-35](#)**, *National Safety Requirements for Offshore Supply Vessels*

PURPOSE

This Notice establishes the minimum requirements for vessels carrying persons in addition to the vessel's crew where strictly applying the SOLAS passenger ship requirements would be inappropriate due to the vessel's design or operations.

It supersedes Rev. 7/14, and has been revised to:

- align the definition for industrial personnel with the Marshall Islands Maritime Regulations ([MI-108](#)); and
- incorporate into §10, the latest IMO guidance on the transport and transfer of personnel for various vessel types.

BACKGROUND

The SOLAS Convention allows a cargo vessel to carry up to 12 persons in addition to the crew.

Cargo vessels carrying more than 12 passengers on an international voyage, under the SOLAS Convention, must be considered a passenger ship. Those vessels must be certified in accordance with SOLAS passenger ship requirements or other standards the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) considers as providing an equivalent level of safety.

The Administrator recognizes there are vessels of such a design and/or which operate in services and under conditions which make strict compliance with SOLAS passenger ship requirements inappropriate. Additionally, the persons carried on these vessels may not be the typical passenger in that they are regularly working in the maritime environment and trained in shipboard emergency procedures. The minimum requirements in this Notice are those necessary to establish an equivalent standard to SOLAS for these vessels.

APPLICABILITY

This Notice applies to:

- each vessel of any gross tonnage that is carrying, on any voyage, any persons who are not crewmembers of the vessel. These persons may include but are not limited to passengers, family members of the crew, maintenance or repair workers, owners’ or operators’ representatives, or regulatory or class surveyors who are onboard for the duration or part of a voyage;
- the transport of offshore crew, industrial personnel, and marine service providers between offshore installations and shore;
- offshore support vessels transporting offshore supplies; and
- standby vessels for evacuation of offshore installations.

It does not apply to:

- passenger ships covered by SOLAS;
- special purpose ships (SPSs) addressed in Marine Notice [2-011-34](#); or
- pilots, class/cargo surveyors, regulatory personnel, or other persons attending or visiting the vessel incidental to a port call.

DEFINITIONS

2008 SPS Code – means the *Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships, 2008*, IMO Resolution [MSC.266\(84\)](#).

Crew – means all persons carried on board the ship to provide navigation and maintenance of the ship, its machinery, systems, and arrangements essential for propulsion and safe navigation or to provide services for other persons on board. It does not include those persons identified as Special or Industrial Personnel.

Crew Boat – means a vessel which is *primarily* used for the transportation of personnel to, from, and between offshore installations. These vessels are typically arranged to also have capacity to deliver limited amounts of stores, materials, or equipment.

Gross Tonnage – The measurement of the internal volume of spaces within the craft as defined by the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 (ITC).

Industrial Personnel – means all persons who are transported or accommodated on board for the purpose of offshore industrial activities performed onboard other ships and/or offshore facilities, including those persons on board offshore installations or vessels engaged in the exploration, exploitation and production of energy, mineral and marine resources or maintenance and repair work who are not regularly assigned to perform shipboard safety and pollution prevention related duties and are not part of the vessel's marine crew as defined above. Accordingly, industrial personnel are not required to sign Shipping Articles; however, they may be parties to other contractual arrangements.

International Voyage – means a voyage outside the territorial waters of the RMI.

Near Coastal Voyage – means a voyage in the vicinity of the coast of a State as defined by the Competent Authority of that State. In no case shall this include voyages greater than 200 nautical miles from the nearest port of refuge.

Offshore Installation – means a marine structure located at an offshore site. The term includes: fixed production platforms; floating production platforms; floating storage units; any unit certificated as a mobile offshore unit (MOU); accommodation units; floating production, storage and operations units (FPSO, FSO, FSU or MOSU); Floating offshore wind turbines, and maintenance units.

Offshore Supply Vessel (OSV) – means a vessel which is used for the transportation of stores, materials, equipment, or personnel to, from, and between offshore installations. These vessels are sometimes categorized as *offshore support vessels*. For the purposes of this Notice the term also includes crew boats.

Offshore Worker – means an individual carried aboard an OSV and employed in a phase of exploration, exploitation, or production of offshore mineral or energy resources, from or below the ocean floor, on or at an offshore installation. The term does not include the master, or a member of the crew engaged in the business of the vessel.

Passenger – means every person other than the master and the members of the crew or other persons employed or engaged in any capacity on board a ship.

Special Personnel – means all persons who are not crewmembers or passengers and children under one year of age and who are carried on board in connection with the special purpose of that ship or because of special work being carried out aboard that ship.

Special Purpose Ship – means a mechanically self-propelled ship which by reason of its function carries on board more than 12 special personnel.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 General

- 1.1 Any vessel intending to carry not more than 12 persons in addition to the crew may do so within the limits of this Notice, provided the total persons on board does not exceed that allowed by the vessel's statutory documents. If total persons on board exceed that allowed by the vessel's statutory documents, the Administrator may consider a limited increase, for a short term, in accordance with paragraph 3.1 below.
- 1.2 Any vessel intending to carry more than 12 persons in addition to the crew must be issued a National Document of Compliance (NDOC), in addition to any other required statutory certification, with specific authorization from the Administrator. This document will serve as evidence that the vessel complies with a standard determined by the Administrator to be equivalent to those of the SOLAS Convention, 1974, as allowed by SOLAS Regulation I/5.
- 1.3 Suitable accommodations, including sanitary facilities, must be provided for each person on board. For voyages of more than 12 hours, this must include overnight accommodations. Where temporary or portable accommodations are employed, they must meet equivalent standards for construction, structure, heating and ventilation, egress, water and weather tightness, safety systems, and sanitary facilities as a vessel in the intended service.
- 1.4 The minimum crew size, including number of certified lifeboatmen, must be based on the total number of persons carried and total number of life boats.

2.0 Procedure

- 2.1 Any owner or operator intending to operate a vessel carrying up to 12 persons in addition to the vessel's crew, may do so only under the conditions of this Notice. Specific authorization from the Administrator is not required unless the total number of persons onboard will exceed the number allowed on the vessel's Safety Equipment Certificate.
- 2.2 Any owner or operator intending to operate a vessel carrying more than 12 persons in addition to the vessel's crew, under the conditions of this Notice, must request and receive specific authorization from the Administrator.
- 2.3 Requests must be forwarded, with the recommendation of the vessel's Recognized Organization (RO), to the Administrator for consideration. This request must include, at a minimum:

- .1 a general arrangement plan;
 - .2 capacity and arrangement of all lifesaving appliances;
 - .3 a detailed scope of operations including area of these;
 - .4 restrictions; and
 - .5 proposed manning and capacity to carry additional personnel.
- 2.4 The request must also provide a description of the role or purpose for all persons onboard, including crew.

3.0 Surveys

- 3.1 The content of surveys is to be sufficient for the surveyor to verify that the vessel and its equipment are satisfactory for the carriage of the specified additional persons in the intended service.
- 3.2 The survey must include an inspection of accommodations, fire fighting equipment, lifesaving equipment and an operational check of the radio equipment.
- 3.3 Verification of hull integrity, watertight closing arrangements and machinery status will be covered by maintaining active Class status.
- 3.4 The surveys of cargo vessels of 500 gross tonnage and above to which SOLAS statutory documents (Safety Construction, Safety Equipment and Supplement) have been issued must be harmonized.

4.0 Certification

4.1 Short-Term Authorization

- .1 Short-term authorizations may be given by the Administrator for those circumstances in which it is necessary to carry additional persons for limited periods in order to carry out maintenance, cleaning, or other necessary tasks related to the condition of the ship or cargo, or conduct onboard relief of crewmembers. These authorizations are typically limited to three months or less.
- .2 Each additional person must be provided with accommodations and personal lifesaving appliances.
- .3 Specific authorization is required if the additional personnel number more than 12 or the resulting total persons onboard are more than the total persons allowed by the vessel's Safety Equipment Certificate or NDOC. In these cases additional lifesaving appliances may need to be provided.

- .4 A written request must be forwarded to the Administrator at: technical@register-iri.com that includes:
 - a. the number of extra persons;
 - b. duration;
 - .c nature of the intended duties on board; and
 - e. capacity of lifesaving appliances.
- .5 If approved, the vessel's RO will be authorized to conduct a survey to verify the conditions of the authorization and to issue the appropriate short-term statutory instrument.
- .6 Specific authorization is not required if the additional persons on board are 12 or less and the resulting total persons onboard are less than the total persons allowed by the vessel's Safety Equipment Certificate or NDOC.
- .7 Vessels receiving a short-term authorization must comply with §10.0 of this Notice, when carrying persons in addition to the crew. Sections 4, 6 – 9, and 11 do not apply unless specifically identified by the Administrator.

4.2 Full-Term Certification (NDOC)

- .1 Each vessel intending to regularly carry more than 12 persons on board in addition to the crew must be issued an NDOC. The NDOC must be issued by the RO to all vessels on completing an Initial Survey carried out concurrently with the surveys required for registration.
- .2 The NDOC will be valid for five years, running concurrently with the five year classification period between special surveys, but is subject to annual verification surveys by the RO, who must endorse the NDOC accordingly. The Annual Survey should be conducted between three months before and three months after the anniversary of the Initial Survey date.
- .3 Cargo vessels of 500 gross tonnage and above must *also* be issued appropriate SOLAS statutory documents (Safety Construction, Safety Equipment and Supplement). For these vessels, the National and International certification must be harmonized.

5.0 Safety and Security Management Systems

- 5.1 The International Safety Management (ISM) Code must be implemented by the operator of all vessels authorized to carry more than 12 persons in addition to the crew. Evidence of compliance must be provided by a RO. See MN [2-011-13](#).

- 5.2 The International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code must be implemented by the operator of all vessels authorized to carry more than 12 persons in addition to the crew. Evidence of compliance must be provided by a Recognized Security Organization. See MN [2-011-16](#).

6.0 Stability and Subdivision

- 6.1 The intact and damage stability, and the subdivision of any vessel intending to carry more than 12 persons in addition to the crew must, at a minimum, comply with the requirements of the Intact Stability Code.
- 6.2 Consideration may be given to use of the *Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships, 2008* (2008 [SPS Code](#)) requirements for stability and subdivision for vessels carrying more than 60 total persons onboard, including the crew.
- 6.3 Arrangements made to maintain the watertight integrity of openings in watertight subdivisions must comply with the relevant provisions for cargo ships contained in chapter II-1 of SOLAS.

7.0 Machinery and Electrical Systems

The machinery and electrical systems must comply with the 2008 SPS Code.

8.0 Fire Protection

The fire protection systems must comply with the 2008 SPS Code.

9.0 Lifesaving

- 9.1 The vessel must comply with the relevant provisions for cargo ships contained in Chapter III of SOLAS.
- 9.2 All lifesaving appliances and arrangements must be in accordance with Chapter III of SOLAS and the Lifesaving Appliances Code.
- 9.3 Lifejackets – a lifejacket must be provided for each person on board. Additional lifejackets must also be provided to each watchstander at the watch locations.
- 9.4 Immersion suits – an immersion suit must be provided for each person on board, unless the vessel is operating exclusively between 30° North and 30° South latitudes and an exemption certificate has been issued by the vessel's RO. Additional immersion suits must be provided to each watchstander at the watch locations.
- 9.5 Lifeboats – vessels greater than 85 m in length, or any vessel carrying more than 60 total persons, must be equipped with SOLAS lifeboats of sufficient capacity to accommodate the total persons on board.

9.6 Life Rafts

- .1 Vessels must carry one or more life rafts with an aggregate capacity that will accommodate the total number of persons on board.
- .2 Life rafts must be stowed in a position providing for easy side-to-side transfer at a single open deck level or additional life rafts must be provided to bring the total capacity available on each side to at least 100 percent of the total number of persons on board.

9.7 Rescue boats – all vessels must be equipped with at least one SOLAS rescue boat. An additional rescue boat may be required depending on the total number of persons carried, route, and type of vessel.

10.0 Transport and Transfer of Persons by Vessels Other Than Passenger Ships

10.1 Transport and transfer of persons in addition to the crew must be conducted as follows and according to the listed applicable IMO instrument:

- .1 all vessels: [MSC-MEPC.7/Circ10](#);
- .2 vessels carrying Industrial Personnel: IMO Resolution [MSC.418\(97\)](#);
- .3 Offshore Supply Vessels: IMO Resolution [A.863\(20\)](#).

10.2 All transport voyages are:

- .1 limited to near coastal, unless specifically authorized by the Administrator;
and
- .2 subject to favorable sea conditions, except under emergency conditions.