



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-8

Rev. Mar/2024

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

SUBJECT: National Safety Requirements for Vessels Less than Convention Size

References: (a) **SOLAS**, *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, 1974
(b) **IACS [Recommendation 99](#)**, *Recommendations for the Safety of Cargo Vessels of less than Convention Size*

PURPOSE

This Marine Notice (MN) standardizes the procedures from the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (“the Administrator”) for issuing a National Cargo Ship Document of Compliance (NDOC) to certain categories of vessels that are not covered by SOLAS or other international conventions.

Superseding Rev. Apr/2022, this MN has been amended to recognize IACS Recommendation 99 as providing the minimum standards for cargo vessels less than convention size.

APPLICABILITY

A. An NDOC may be issued to the following categories of RMI-flagged vessels:

1. vessels of less than 24 meters but not under 12 meters in length;
2. vessels of less than 500 gross tons but not under 20 net tons; and
3. fishing vessels.

B. This Marine Notice does not apply to vessels regulated as:

1. yachts;
2. vessels regulated under the RMI *Mobile Offshore Unit Standards* ([MI-293](#)); or
3. vessels regulated under MN [2-011-34](#), *Special Purpose Ships*.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 General

- 1.1 The Administrator recognizes IACS [Recommendation 99](#) as establishing the minimum regulatory requirements for vessels of less than 500 gross tons and requires its application.
- 1.2 Vessels built to an IMO Member State standard that is equivalent to IACS Recommendation 99 may be accepted by the Administrator on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.3 Vessels not expressly covered by other international conventions to which the RMI is a party must conform with their requirements as prescribed by the Administrator.
- 1.5 The additional Administrator requirements in sections §3.0 – 5.0, below, must be applied.

2.0 Modifications and Alterations

No modifications or alterations will be required in existing approved arrangements. However, where the provided equipment falls below generally accepted international standards or normal good shipbuilding practice, consultation with the Administrator is required, including to determine the number and type of equipment that must be carried. Where a Recognized Organization is involved, a recommendation must be made to the Administrator. In all cases, the determinations will be made in consultation with the owner.

3.0 Radio Equipment

- 3.1 All certificated vessels must comply with SOLAS IV/4 (radiocommunication), as applicable, unless alternative arrangements are approved by the Administration.
- 3.2 Vessels must comply with SOLAS V/19.1 (LRIT)¹ as required by MN [2-011-25](#).
- 3.3 An operational check of the radio communication equipment must be conducted by an Recognized Organization approved service provider.

4.0 Safety and Security Management Systems

- 4.1 A structured and documented system enabling Company personnel to effectively implement the Company safety and environmental protection policy is required. Vessels not subject to mandatory compliance with the International Safety Management Code may do so voluntarily. See MN [2-011-13](#).

1. Long Range Identification and Tracking

- 4.2 Vessels not subject to mandatory compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility Security may do so voluntarily. This includes cargo ships, such as OSVs, 300 - 499 gross tonnage (ITC 69)². See MN [2-011-16](#).

5.0 Carriage of Industrial Personnel

Vessels carrying more than 12 persons in addition to the crew must comply with MN [2-011-60](#) when accommodating or transporting at least one IP.

6.0 NDOC Certification

- 6.1 The title of the NDOC may be modified by the surveyor to reflect the type of vessel to which it is issued.
- 6.2 The NDOC may only be issued to vessels on successfully completing an Initial Survey carried out concurrently with the surveys required for registration.
- 6.3 The NDOC will be valid for five years, running concurrently with the five-year Classification period between special surveys where applicable.
- .1 Annual verification surveys must be conducted and the NDOC endorsed accordingly.
- .2 The Annual Survey must be conducted between three months before and three months after the anniversary of the Initial Survey date.
- 6.4 A copy of the NDOC must be sent to technical@register-iri.com.

2. *International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships* (ITC 69)