



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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TECHNICAL CIRCULAR

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International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters Certification

1.0 Introduction

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) has authorized 12 Classification Societies governed by its Recognized Organization (RO) Agreement to perform services with respect to the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code).

2.0 Polar Water Operational Manual

- 2.1 The Polar Water Operational Manual (PWOM) must be based upon an Operational Assessment that addresses ship-specific capabilities and limitations. It is the responsibility of the shipowner or operator to develop the Operational Assessment and PWOM.
- 2.2 The review process by an RMI-authorized RO must confirm that the Operational Assessment and PWOM cover the required elements and that the operating limitations that have been identified and are reflected in the Polar Ship Certificate.

3.0 Instructions

- 3.1 The PWOM is to be reviewed (not approved) by an RO prior to the issuance of a Polar Ship Certificate. Review of a PWOM does not require a stamp or signature of approval by the RO. Nonetheless, this review process is important and requires more than checking a box that the PWOM exists.
- 3.2 The RO must verify that the shipowner or ship operator has taken into consideration:
 - .1 IMO Circular [MSC.1/Circ.1519](#), *Guidance on methodologies for assessing operational capabilities and limitations in ice*, in conducting the Operational Assessment; and
 - .2 that each element listed in the model format contained in Appendix II of the Polar Code is adequately addressed in the PWOM.
 - .3 all factors contained in the Operational Assessment are adequately addressed in accordance with Marine Notice [2-011-52](#) and appropriately reflected in the PWOM.

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- 3.3 The Polar Code is an instrument with many functional requirements rather than prescriptive ones. The RO must work directly with the shipowner or ship operator during the review process before issuing a Polar Ship Certificate.
- 3.4 A Polar Ship Certificate may only be issued by the RO after successfully completing an initial survey. The Polar Ship Certificate must appropriately reflect all operational limitations identified in the PWOM.
- 3.5 A Statement of Compliance may be issued to non-SOLAS vessels wishing to comply with the Polar Code on a voluntary basis. Voluntary compliance may be established using IMO guidance¹. Evidence of voluntary compliance is recognized by the Administrator if verified and certified by a Recognized Organizations (RO).

¹ See [MSC.1/Circ.1641](#) and [MSC.1/Circ.1642](#)