



# REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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## **TECHNICAL CIRCULAR**

**Circular Number: 28**

**Revision: 0**

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**Date: 20 November 2019**

### **International Tonnage Convention – Alterations or Modifications**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 (the 1969 Tonnage Convention or ITC) introduced a new measurement system whereby tonnages measured under this system could be different from those measured under national tonnage rules. It fully entered into force 18 July 1994<sup>1</sup> and from this date national tonnage could no longer be used when applying newer tonnage thresholds in international conventions, unless otherwise provided in an international convention or instrument.
- 1.2 Although the ITC and its unified interpretations have been in effect for quite some time, there continues to be confusion about the ITC certificate when a new structure such as a deckhouse is added. The purpose of this Technical Circular is to clarify this issue.
- 1.3 Article 2 of the ITC, defines new and existing ships as follows:

(6) "new ship" means a ship the keel of which is laid, or which is at a similar stage of construction, on or after the date of coming into force of the present Convention;

(7) "existing ship" means a ship which is not a new ship.

The ITC entered into force on 18 July 1982. An "existing ship" is one with a keel laying prior to that date.

#### **2.0 Instructions**

##### **2.1 International Tonnage Certificate**

Any change in tonnage for a "new ship" (one with a keel laying date from 18 July 1982 as explained above) must be reflected by issuing a revised International Tonnage Convention certificate. The gross tonnage on other convention certificates must be aligned with the ITC certificate.

<sup>1</sup> See IMO Resolution [A.1073\(28\)](#), *Recommendation on the Use of National Tonnage in Applying International Conventions*.

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### **2.2 National Tonnage**

- 2.2.1 Certain ships with keels laid before 18 July 1994 may have a remark on the ITC certificate relating to the use of national tonnage. They may be eligible to retain this explanation, provided they haven't incurred a substantial variation in gross tonnage.
- 2.2.2 A variation is deemed substantial when it results in "an increase or decrease of more than 1% in the gross tonnage calculated in accordance with the ITC." See IMO Circular [TM.5/Circ.6](#), interpretation "A.3(2)(d) -1."
- 2.2.3 Any use of national tonnage must be in accordance with IMO Resolution [A.1073\(28\)](#).

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