



TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR 10-2005

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FOR: Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers

VALID CERTIFICATES TO BE CARRIED ON BOARD TUVALU VESSEL AT ALL TIMES

Please note that valid certificates must be carried onboard Tuvalu vessels at all times. These include the crewmembers' Certificates of Competency, Certificates of Endorsement and Seafarer's Book (Passport).

Statutory Certificates such as Load Line Certificate, Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate etc either issued by the Tuvalu Ship Registry or the Recognized Organizations (RO) on its behalf must also be valid and endorsed if required within the time period as stipulated in the regulations of the conventions and related protocols of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Failure to endorse such certificates within the time period will cause these certificates to become invalid.

It is an offence under Section 19(3) of the Tuvalu Merchant Shipping (Registration of Foreign Vessels) Regulations 2004 if vessel carries expired or invalid certificates and the Tuvalu Ship Registry may suspend or cancel a vessel's Certificate of Registry and impose a monetary penalty, and such other conditions as may be necessary to bring about compliance with IMO conventions.

A crewmember who uses a forged or illegally modified certificate of competency and /or certificate of endorsement and /or seafarer's book (Passport) to serve onboard a Tuvalu vessel is deemed to be an unqualified person going to sea as qualified officer or seaman and guilty of an offence under Section 77 of the Tuvalu Merchant Shipping Act. Stiff penalties including imprisonment may be imposed on the crewmember and the owner/operator who employs him.

A crewmember serving onboard a Tuvalu vessel who fails, without reason excuse on demand to produce his certificate of competency or other documents to an officer authorized by the Tuvalu Ship Registry is guilty of an offence under Section 78 of the Tuvalu Merchant Shipping Act. This offence also carries stiff penalties including imprisonment, which may be imposed on the crewmember and the owner/operator who employs him.