

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY No. 34-17

To: Owners/Operators, Masters, Nautical Inspectors, Recognized Organizations

Subject: ECDIS REQUIREMENT TO MEET UPDATES FROM 01 SEPTEMBER 2017

Date: 21 August 2017

Shipboard electronic chart display and information system (ECDIS) installations will be required to meet the Presentation Library 4.0 version of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) display and testing standards from 01 September this year. It should be noted that this implementation schedule coincides with the Safety of Navigation Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) which will be conducted by the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Tokyo MoU, Black Sea MoU, Indian Ocean MoU, and Viña del Mar beginning on 01 September 2017.

During the third session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, and Search and Rescue (NSCR 3), the compliance date for meeting the updated Presentation Library 4.0 version of ECDIS was extended to 31 August 2017. Despite having been given an additional year of time to comply, some shipowners/operators are apparently still experiencing problems in meeting this date as the result of:

- Incompatibility between the onboard ECDIS and the update;
- Lack of availability of technicians in undertaking the updates; and
- Updated ECDIS units displaying incorrect information.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) has become aware of these problems and will consider, on a case-by-case basis, authorizing the vessel’s Classification Society to issue a statutory memo to an operator who legitimately cannot comply with the aforementioned compliance date of 31 August 2017 for any of the above reasons.

In order to be authorized the issuance of a statutory memo, the operator must fully confirm the following and provide such documentation to the Classification Society along with the request for such statutory memo:

1. The vessel operator has contacted the manufacturer/service company well in advance and has nevertheless been advised and provided written confirmation of the date on which the manufacturer/service company will be able to schedule the update or replacement of the ECDIS unit, which must not be more than 90 days beyond the compliance date.

This MSA expires one (1) year after its issuance, unless otherwise noted, extended, superseded, or revoked.

2. The ship has been equipped with charts and publications in compliance with the requirements of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Regulation V/27, or the vessel's Classification Society has been provided with confirmation from the manufacturer/service company that the continued use of the existing ECDIS without the upgrade poses no immediate risk to safe navigation and so meets the requirements of SOLAS Regulation V/27.
3. The navigation officers are fully conversant in the use of paper charts and the ECDIS.
4. The ship has informed the relevant port State authorities prior to arrival of this situation.
5. The confirmation letter from the manufacturer/service company is being held on board and provided to the port State control officer (PSCO) to demonstrate the joint commitment of the vessel operator and the manufacturer/service company to address the deficiency in a timely manner.
6. Supporting documentation (2,4, 5, this Marine Safety Advisory) are available on board to support/validate the statutory memo.