



№ 28/CIRC/FSI

2020 / 10 /23

To: All Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships under the
Georgian Flag, Masters and Officers, Recognized Organizations
and Georgia Flag State Inspectors

Subject: Flag State Inspection and Survey on behalf of MTA in the period of COVID-19 Pandemic

References:

- **Maritime Code of Georgia**
- **MTA Circular № 4/CIRC/FSI, dated, 25/February/2020, FSI TARGETS FOR 2020-2021**
- **IMO Circular Letter No.4204/Add.19/Rev.2 “Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance for flag States regarding surveys and renewals of certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic”**

1. Purpose:

1.1 The main purpose of this circular is to provide information on alternative arrangements in cases when surveys or inspections cannot be executed due to restrictions imposed as a result of the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

2. Applications:

- 2.1 This Circular applies to all Recognized Organizations (IACS) (Hereinafter “RO”) which are acting on behalf of the LEPL Maritime Transport agency of Georgia. (Hereinafter “Agency”)
- 2.2 For the statutory flag surveys which are conducted by the RO, this circular applies to all ships registered in the State Register of Ships of Georgia which are engaged in international and domestic voyages.
- 2.3 For the Flag State Inspection this circular applies to all ships registered in the State Register of Ships of Georgia which are engaged in international voyages.

3. Background:

3.1 With the current developing situation concerning COVID-19, travel restrictions and other precautionary measures may cause difficulties in carrying out statutory flag surveys, inspections, audits and certifications. However it is vital to ensure continuous operation of maritime transport is of utmost importance to ensure and maintain international lines of supply.

4. Flag State Inspection:

- 4.1 Due to COVID-19 countermeasures, all flag state inspections may be performed via distance by using online technologies.
- 4.2 The agency shall provide all necessary information regarding the new method of inspection to the ship owners, Managers and ships Masters.
- 4.3 The Agency shall issue an inspection statement for the successful completion of the inspection.
- 4.4 The Agency may request any kind of photo/video evidence of the equipment or any other items on the ship.

5. Flag State Surveys by the RO:

- 5.1 Due to COVID-19 countermeasures, the mandatory statutory flag state surveys (if physically is impossible) may be performed via distance by the RO as well.
- 5.2 The RO shall provide all necessary information regarding the new method of survey to the ship owners, Managers and ships Masters.
- 5.3 Each scheduled surveys and its contents shall be agreed in advanced with the Agency.
- 5.4 The RO shall issue a statutory certificate for the successful completion of the survey.
- 5.5 The RO may request any kind of photo/video evidence of the equipment or any other items on the ship.

6. Transitional Provisions:

- 6.1 The mentioned circular shall enter into force from **October 26, 2020** and be valid till the **end of restrictions imposed as a result of the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic**.

7. Contact Details:

- 7.1 Shipowner, ship operator or Management Company and RO of a ship flying the Georgian flag, for additional consultations and assistance regarding mentioned circular requirements may contact the Agency:

LEPL – Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia
Ships Registry and Flag Control Department
Tel: +995 (422) 274925
E-mail: fsi@mta.gov.ge
Hotline/AOH: +995 (577) 221622

Director

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ELECTRONICALLY 

Tamar Ioseliani

