

# Palau International Ship Registry



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## MARINE NOTICE 192.1

**To: ALL SHIPOWNERS, MANAGERS, MASTERS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS.**

**Subject: NAUTICAL CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS CARRIAGE AND ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (ECDIS) REQUIREMENTS**

### 1. References

- 1.1 SOLAS, International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, Consolidated Edition 2014, as amended
- 1.2 IMO Resolution MSC.232(82), *Adoption of the Revised Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)*, Adopted December 5 2006.
- 1.3 IMO Resolution A.817(19), *Performance Standards for Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS)*, adopted on November 23 1995
- 1.4 IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503, *ECDIS – Guidance for good practice*, Dated July 24, 2015
- 1.5 IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1496, *Unified Interpretation on the Appendix to the SOLAS Convention Regarding the Records of Equipment Concerning Nautical Charts and ECDIS*, dated 21 November 2014
- 1.6 IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1290, *Unified Interpretation of the Term “First Survey” Referred to in SOLAS Regulations*, dated 16 December 2008
- 1.7 STCW, International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 2011 Edition, Regulation II/1-3, as amended
- 1.8 Palau Maritime Regulations Chapter 5

### 2. Purpose

- 2.1 This Notice provides requirements and guidance for the carriage of nautical charts and publications in both paper and electronic formats

### 3. Applicability

- 3.1 This Marine Notice applies to all Palau registered vessels over 150 GRT and trading internationally.

### 4. General Requirements

- 4.1 In accordance with the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), V/19.2.1.4 and V/27, all vessels shall carry nautical charts and nautical publications necessary to plan and display the vessel's route for the intended voyage, and to plot and monitor the vessel's position throughout the voyage.
- 4.2 In addition, vessels shall carry nautical charts and publications that may be needed to safely enter a harbor of safe refuge along the intended route.



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## 5. Chart Carriage Requirement

- 5.1 All vessels shall carry an adequate portfolio of nautical charts updated to the latest edition of Notices to Mariners available onboard for their planned voyage.
- 5.2 As defined by SOLAS V/2.2, nautical charts are issued officially by or on the authority of a Government, authorized Hydrographic Office or other relevant government institutions. Masters shall ensure that any charts required by port State regulations for ports where the vessel will be calling during a voyage are onboard and updated as necessary.
- 5.3 The Palau Ship Registry Administrator recognizes that an ECDIS unit satisfies the chart carriage requirement of SOLAS V/19.2.1.4, provided that it meets the following criteria:
  - a. Conforms to the relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) performance standards;
  - b. Uses up to date electronic nautical charts (ENCs);
  - c. Is maintained to be compatible with the latest applicable International Hydrographic (IHO) standards; and
  - d. Has an adequate, independent back-up arrangement as required by SOLAS V.19.2.1.5.
- 5.4 In areas for which ENCs have not been issued or are not of an appropriate scale for the planning and display of the vessel's voyage plan, either the ECDIS can be used in the Raster Chart Display System (RCDS) mode or paper nautical charts can be used. If an ECDIS is operated in the RCDS mode, an appropriate portfolio of up-to-date paper charts must be carried onboard and be available for use.
- 5.5 The vessel's manager is responsible for determining the form of charts to be used onboard as the primary means of navigation. The form of chart used as the primary means of navigation shall be indicated in the Company's Safety Management System (SMS). All navigation work must be done on the form of chart indicated in the Company's SMS.
- 5.6 IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1496 provides a unified interpretation for how to document the form(s) of nautical charts carried onboard on the vessel's Record of Equipment (Form E, C or P as appropriate).

## 6. ECDIS Carriage Requirements

- 6.1 An ECDIS that is not updated to the latest version of the IHO Standards may not meet the chart carriage requirements as set out in SOLAS V/19.2.1.4. Consistent with IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503, it is important that the software meet the most current IHO Standards to ensure that an ENC is correctly displayed.



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6.2 Every ECDIS onboard must be operational and fitted in accordance with the requirements and provisions of SOLAS.

## 7. ECDIS Training

7.1 The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention), Regulation II/1-3 requires approved training in the use of ECDIS. Additionally, Part E of IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1503 summarizes the current ECDIS training requirements to ensure that Masters and deck officers serving onboard vessels fitted with ECDIS meet the mandatory training requirements of the STCW Convention. These requirements apply on all ships fitted with ECDIS, even if paper charts are indicated in the Company's SMS as the primary means of navigation.

7.2 Every Master and deck officer assigned to a vessel fitted with ECDIS must be certificated as competent in the use of ECDIS as required by STCW Tables A-II/1, II/2, and II/3.

7.3 Type Specific Training is to be completed in accordance with the shipboard SMS procedures prior to an officer assuming a navigational watch. It is intended to familiarize the watch officer with the basic operation of the ECDIS equipment aboard the vessel to which they are assigned, including route planning and execution.

7.4 A fitted ECDIS may be used for training if there are two fitted units onboard or the primary means of navigation is paper charts. Using ECDIS for training is not equivalent to conducting all required navigation work on the primary ECDIS or paper nautical charts. Vessel managers should provide guidance addressing the use of ECDIS for training to ensure that the safety of navigation is not compromised.

## 8. Nautical Publications

8.1 At a minimum, vessels shall carry sailing directions, lists of lights, notices to mariners, tide tables, and current table for the vessel's planned voyage in accordance with SOLAS V/19.2.1 and V/27. Other publications, including a nautical almanac and coast pilots (where issued) shall also be carried.

8.2 Masters shall ensure that any nautical publications required by port state regulations for ports where the vessel will be calling during a voyage, are onboard and updated with the latest published corrections.



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- 8.3 Nautical publications shall be issued officially by or on the authority of a Government, authorized Hydrographic Office, or other relevant government institution. All nautical publications shall be currently updated to the latest edition of Notices to Mariners that is available onboard.
- 8.4 Electronic nautical publications may be used to either partly or fully fulfill the requirements of SOLAS, Chapter V provided the following conditions are met:
- Nautical publications required for intended voyage planning (examples include sailing directions, coast pilots, light lists, tide and current tables, etc.) must be provided with electronic or paper back-up arrangements.
  - Relevant back-up copies must be corrected and ready for use when needed. When an electronic back-up is carried, portions of the publication needed for the planned voyage shall be printed and included with the voyage plan unless the electronic back-up is an independent computer system with its own emergency source of power.

## 9. Contact

- 9.1 Any inquiries concerning the subject for this Marine Notice should be directed to the Head Office of the Palau Ship Registry Administrator at [technical@palaureg.com](mailto:technical@palaureg.com)

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