TUVALU SHIP REGISTRY

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MARINE CIRCULAR

MC-6/2017/1

10/2017

FOR: Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Ship Officers, Recognized Organizations, Flag State Inspectors

SUBJECT: IMO ADVICE TO PORT STATES ON REQUIRED UPDATES OF ECDIS

DEFINITIONS:

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "ECDIS" – Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems
- "IHO" – International Hydrographic Organization
- "IMO" – International Maritime Organization
- "PSCO" – Port State Control officers
- "SOLAS" – International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended

The term "Administration" shall mean the Tuvalu Ship Registry.

PURPOSE: The IHO has revised its ECDIS standards, with an implementation date of 1 September 2017. However, the Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III) at its 4th session, has agreed that there is need to advice PSCOs inspecting ships carrying ECDIS that have not been updated as per SOLAS V, owing to lack of availability of required updates from the manufacturer, to take a pragmatic and practical approach by:

(a) checking whether relevant documentation has been issued by the flag State; and

(b) in the absence of flag State's documentation, consult with the flag State accordingly.

The above is due to awareness that some manufacturers are not able to provide the required updates by the 31 August 2017 deadline.

REFERENCES: Refer to the end of the appended circular – IMO III.2/Circ.2.

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The Administration is of the view that compliance with the latest IHO standards is mandatory for applicable vessels, however, if the inability to update the ECDIS software is due to the lack of availability of the required updates from the manufacturer, then the Administration shall accept the lack of the ECDIS software update so long as the vessel is provided with the latest updated paper charts for the intended voyage, while the ship operator endeavours to engage with the vessel's ECDIS manufacturer to update the existing ECDIS software for compliance with the latest IHO standards at the earliest availability.

All new ECDIS installed after 31 August 2017 is require to conform to the latest IHO standards.

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III.2/Circ.2
2 October 2017

ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY PORT STATES ON THE REQUIRED UPDATES OF ELECTRONIC CHART DISPLAY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (ECDIS)

1 The Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III) at its fourth session (25 to 29 September 2017), noting that some manufacturers have been unable to provide the required updates by 31 August 2017, expressed concern about the challenges being experienced by the industry in making required updates to existing Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS) on board ships and considered the need for issuing advice to port States.

2 In this regard, the Sub-Committee agreed that port State control officers (PSCOs) inspecting ships carrying ECDIS that have not been updated as per SOLAS chapter V, owing to the lack of availability of required updates from the manufacturer, should take a pragmatic and practical approach. In doing so:

.1 PSCOs should check whether relevant documentation has been issued by the flag State; and

.2 in the absence of flag State's documentation, the PSCOs should consult with the flag State accordingly.

3 Member Governments are to be guided accordingly and are invited to bring this advice to the attention of all concerned, in particular, PSCOs, recognized organizations, companies and other relevant parties.

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