



# ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° GEN 002 - Rev. 5

### APPLICATION OF MANDATORY AND NON MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

**TO:** **RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS (RO), FLAG STATE INSPECTORS, SHIP OWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND MANAGERS, MASTERS AND SEAFARERS**

**APPLICABLE TO:** **ALL SHIPS**

**EFFECTIVE AS FROM:** Date of this Circular

11 March 2024

#### **General**

The aim of this Circular is to give guidance on the technical/statutory standards which should be applied to St Vincent and The Grenadines ships.

In addition it gives interpretation regarding "type approvals" and meeting the criteria "to the satisfaction of the Administration," as outlined in applicable IMO Conventions, Resolutions, and related documents.

#### **The technical/statutory standards**

Standards stated by this Circular are to the satisfaction of this Administration. The technical/statutory standards for St Vincent and The Grenadines' ships are applicable:

- International Conventions of International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- International Labour Organization (ILO), and
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- IACS No.99 Recommendations for the Safety of Cargo Vessels of less than Convention Size (Dec 2007);

Chapter I (GENERAL PROVISION), Section 3 (Survey and Maintenance), paragraph 3.2, the last sentence is replaced by "*It is recommended that such surveys should be carried out by a Classification Society recognized by St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration*".

Chapter II (WATERTIGHT INTEGRITY AND EQUIPMENT), Section 1 (Load Line Recommendations), vessels of less than 24 metres, flying St Vincent and The Grenadines Flag, are not required to comply with the relevant condition of assignment and the assignment of freeboard.

together with Amendments and mandatory Resolutions.

Polar Code is applicable as far as practicable to ships (pleasure and commercial yachts included) which are not subject to SOLAS and MARPOL, and which may be operated in polar waters (as defined by Polar Code).

Ship Owners/Managers/Operators are required to contact this Administration in order to identify the applicable requirements of the Polar Code on a case by case basis.

### **Inland Navigation**

At the Owners' request and subject to acceptance by the Party(ies) where the ship is operated, EU 2016/1629 is applicable. Registration of ships intended to inland navigation is handled on a case by case basis.

Recognized Organizations, as part of their authorization, are required to support and implement, where applicable, non-mandatory international requirements when performing approval, survey, audit and certification.

### **Criteria for "Type Approvals"**

The relevant IMO instruments contain requirements related to "Type Approval". This Administration considers equipment to be acceptable under the following conditions:

- Equipment aligns with the technical specifications or operational standards established by the IMO.
- If the IMO has not provided technical specifications or operational standards for certain equipment, and the relevant international instrument mandates type approval, this Administration will recognize:
  - Equipment approved by traditional maritime nations, IMO members, possessing national, regional, or international provisions for specific equipment approval,
  - Equipment approved based on standards formulated by specialized International Organizations acknowledged by the IMO, such as the unified interpretations of the IACS for onboard equipment or materials.

### **Criteria "To the Satisfaction of the Administration":**

The relevant IMO instruments stipulate that arrangements must be "to the satisfaction of the Administration".

In cases where the IMO has not developed approved interpretations, the unified interpretations sanctioned by the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) may serve as a foundation for establishing specific requirements in compliance with relevant international instruments.

For the interpretation of regulations not covered by the aforementioned guidelines, Recognized Organizations (ROs) are authorized to interpret applicable instrument requirements within the limits of those instruments. This should align with the technical standards acceptable to the ROs, unless otherwise directed by this Administration.

### **Carriage of the technical/statutory standards on board**

The carriage of printed or digital copies of the above-mentioned documents on board St Vincent and The Grenadines' registered ships is not, in general, mandatory. However Owners and Managers are reminded that it remains their responsibility, under the obligations placed upon the Company by the ISM Code, to ensure that members of the shipboard management team know the Conventions related to their duties. In this regard, it is expected that the full text of these documents is available on board for reference in either a hard copy or digital form.

St Vincent and The Grenadines Maritime Administration also recommends that Owners and Managers of St Vincent and The Grenadines' ships adopt the practices contained in applicable non-mandatory Resolutions and Circulars which provide alternatives and clarifications of the requirements contained in the Conventions and Codes.

The Ship Owners, Ships' Operators, Ship Managers and Builders are expected to take the above into consideration.

The attention of all parties is drawn to the availability of the Conventions and Codes on <https://www.imo.org/en/publications/Pages/Home.aspx>

IMO Committees/Sub-Committees Circulars are publicly available at IMODOCS.

Revision History:  
Rev 5 - completely revised.