



**MARITIME CIRCULAR No. 24**

To:

**Ship - Owners/Operators/Managers, Registration Officers (RegOffs), Recognized Organizations (ROs)**

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Subject:

**Requirements for vessels undertaking one single voyage under tow**

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Date:

**20<sup>th</sup> of January 2016**

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References:

**IMO MSC/Circ. 884**

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Maritime Circular is to inform the Recognized Organizations as the entities responsible for ensuring that the vessel is seaworthy to undertake the voyage and that all the measurements towards the towing are being ensured.

### **Application**

This circular applies to all vessels registered for a single voyage under tow.

### **Tow Policy**

- 1.** All vessels that are registered to undertake one single voyage under tow should have, at the time of departure the following certificates:
  - 1.1** International Tonnage Certificate, if applicable as per Article 3 of the ITC, 1969
  - 1.2** Load Line Certificate, if applicable as per Article 4 of the ICLL, 1966 as amended
  - 1.3** Towage Certificate following the guidelines of the IMO MSC/Circ. 884
  - 1.4** Tow plan arrangements
  - 1.5** BCC Certificate
  - 1.6** Crew Dispensation or Crew COC, if the vessel will be manned
  - 1.7** Exemptions issued by the Flag Administration, if applicable.

## 2. General Tow Guidelines

### 2.1 During the tow survey, Recognized Organizations must ensure that the **towing vessel**:

- a. Possess valid certificates/licences for the intended voyage
- b. Valid certificates/licences for Master and other crew members on board.
- c. Updated nautical charts for the intended voyage
- d. Appropriate navigational lights, shapes & radio equipment.
- e. Availability and condition of the equipment to be used for towing.
- f. Availability and condition of fire-fighting & lifesaving appliances.
- g. Condition of towing & emergency/spare towing gear and arrangements
- h. Confirm that the amount of fuel on board is sufficient for the intended voyage.

### 2.2 During tow survey, Recognized Organizations must ensure that the **vessel being towed**:

- a. Is seaworthy for the intended voyage. It is important to confirm the general condition and integrity of hull and deck. In case the vessel has been damaged, it should at least have been temporarily repaired to withstand the weather during the voyage at the satisfaction of the Recognized Organization
- b. Drafts of the vessel are checked with adequate intact stability
- c. The condition of navigation lights and shapes
- d. The battery capacity is sufficient for navigational lights to work during the intended voyage
- e. Spare light bulbs for navigating lights available on board
- f. Closing arrangement for deck openings in satisfactory condition and secured properly
- g. Cargo, equipment & store are properly secured
- h. Availability and readiness of anchor for emergency use
- i. Boarding facilities are properly rigged on the tow

3. It is the responsibility of the Recognised Organisation to adhere to the above requirements and comply with any additional requirements a port authority may have. The Recognised Organisation shall contact the port of departure on time and request any special requirements the port authority may have in order to act accordingly and ensure compliance.

4. If a vessel undertaking one single voyage under tow is detained and during the review of the inspection it is found that the vessel did not comply with the requirements mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration, reserves the right to suspend or cancel the registration of the vessel.

5. In case of a detention that clearly shows that the Recognized Organization, Master and Ship Managers did not take the necessary steps to ensure compliance of the vessel for the one single voyage under tow, Sierra Leone Maritime Administration reserves the right to issue a fine not exceeding USD 3,000.00 to the owner of the vessel.

The above policy will enter into effect as of **20<sup>th</sup> of January 2016**.

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Revision

Initial: 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2016 – Adopted