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Circular Letter No.3715
6 March 2017

To: All IMO Member States
Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and its 1978 and 1988 Protocols, which are not Members of IMO
Contracting Governments to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 and Parties to its 1988 Protocol, which are not Members of IMO
Contracting Governments to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969, which are not Members of IMO
Contracting Governments to the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and its 1997 Protocol, which are not Members of IMO
Contracting Governments to the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, which are not Members of IMO
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Sierra Leone on the issuance of electronic certificates**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a communication by the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration in respect of the issuance of electronic certificates.

The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.



**SIERRA LEONE
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ADMINISTRATION**

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Date: 03rd March 2017

To: Ki Tack Lim
Secretary - General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
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Dear Secretary - General,

Sierra Leone Maritime Administration presents its compliments and is grateful to announce that as of the 1st of April 2017, Sierra Leone will begin issuing electronic, system generated, ship Certificates to all vessels flying the Sierra Leone Flag.

The Electronic Certificates will carry the Sierra Leone coat of arms, will be digitally signed and stamped and will have a unique official authorization/identification number (VHQ-XXX-XX-XXXX) as per FAL.5/Circ.39 (Guidelines for the use of Electronic Certificates). In addition all electronic certificates will be issued in the format provided by the applicable Conventions and will be uploaded by the 1st of April 2017 on the IMO GISIS website.

Sierra Leone Maritime Administration will issue the following Electronic Certificates, which will be accepted at all times in electronic format (on a screen), or in a printed colored paper format:

1. Certificate of Registry
2. Minimum Safe Manning Certificate
3. Ship Station License
4. Deletion Certificate
5. Continuous Synopsis Record
6. Transcript of Registry
7. Bunker's Liability Certificate
8. Civil Liability Certificate
9. SOLAS Exemption
10. Load Line Exemption
11. Temporary Permit
12. DMLC Part I

Only in special cases of a potential service delay due to system downtime, this Administration may authorize the issuance of any of the above said certificates not via our Software and in paper format, until the system is repaired. These Certificates, as well as any other Certificate/Letter which is not mentioned in this correspondence will have a different unique official authorization/identification number (SLR-XXX-XX-XXXX).

All certificates (in electronic format or paper format) can be verified through our website at www.slmarad.com or by contacting the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration by email at info@slmarad.com. All verification copies are digitally protected from alteration or tampering.

For a transitional period lasting until 01st June 2017, the electronic system will run alongside the existing paper-based system. However, as of the 02nd June 2017, the electronic system will become mandatory for all Certificates mentioned above.

We would respectfully request the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization to issue a Circular in order to notify all Member States accordingly.

Sierra Leone Maritime Administration would like to express the assurance of its highest consideration to the Secretary – General of the International Maritime Organization.

Yours Sincerely,



Marianna Fournari



Registrar