



№ 21/CIRC/FSI

2020 / 06 / 22

To: All Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships flying
Georgia Flag, Masters and Officers, Recognized Organizations,
Flag State Inspectors, Recognized Agents.

Subject : **Minimum Safe Manning Requirements for Ships Flying the Georgian Flag**

Reference:

- Maritime Code of Georgia;
- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, as amended;
- IMO Resolution A.1047(27) "Principles of Minimum Safe Manning";
- Technical Regulation of the Government of Georgia "Minimum Safe Manning Requirements for Ships Flying the Georgian Flag".

1. Introduction:

1.1 This circular should be used in applying the principles of minimum safe manning to ensure the safe operation of ships, the security of ships and for the protection of the marine environment.

1.2 The objectives of this circular are to ensure that a ship is sufficiently and efficiently manned to provide safety and security of the ship, safe navigation and operations at sea, safe operations in port, prevention of human injury or loss of life, the avoidance of damage to the marine environment and to property, and to ensure the welfare and health of seafarers through the avoidance of fatigue.

2. Purpose:

2.1 The circular informs the owners, operators, managers and masters of the ships registered in the State Ships Registry of Georgia that new decree No 342, dated June 1, 2020 of the Government of Georgia Technical Regulation (hereinafter referred as "regulation") "Minimum Safe Manning Requirements for Ships Flying the Georgian Flag" has been approved.

2.2 This circular sets out the measures adopted by the Ship Registry to ensure Georgian registered ships are sufficiently and efficiently manned in accordance with the requirements or regulations.

3. Application:

3.1 The regulation applies to all ships registered in the State Register of Ships of Georgia, the manning of which is determined by the minimum safe number of the crew in accordance with the tables in Annex 1 of the decree.

3.2 The Regulation applies to all Georgian flagged ships, except:

- Small Ships (less than 7 metre)
- Ships not propelled by mechanical means and without deck department

4. General Requirements:

4.1 Every ship flying the Georgian flag engaged in international navigation shall possess a safe manning Certificate issued by the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia (hereinafter referred as “MTA”) in compliance with Regulation 14 of Chapter V of the SOLAS Convention.

4.2 No ship shall be allowed to proceed to sea unless she:

- a) has a safe manning certificate referred to in paragraph (1) of the present Article; and
- b) is manned in accordance with such certificate at least at the minimum acceptable manning standard.

4.3 The master of any ship to which this regulation applies shall ensure that the ship does not proceed to sea unless there is on board a valid safe manning certificate issued in respect of the ship and the manning of the ship complies with that certificate.

4.4 Under exceptional circumstances the Ship Registry may increase minimum safe manning for fishing, special purpose and passenger ships upon recommendations of recognized organization which shall be reflected in the certificate.

4.5 Under exceptional circumstances the Ship Registry may reduce minimum safe manning, upon consideration the evidence presented by the shipowner and / or the recommendation of the recognized organization, that confirms the possibility of reducing the number of crews which shall be reflected in the certificate.

4.6 Considering the evidence presented by the shipowner and / or the recommendation of the recognized organization, manning of the ship with a closed machine with the crew from the engine department is not recommended.

4.7 The dispensation is issued in accordance with the Law of Georgia on “Seafarers Education and Certification”, in compliance with STCW convention as amended.

5. Principles of Minimum Safe Manning:

5.1 Crew of Georgian flagged ships must always be capable to:

- a) Maintain the safety and security of all persons onboard and keep life-saving, firefighting and other safety systems in operational condition;
- b) Operate and maintain all arrangements for safety and security of the ship;
- c) Perform operations, as appropriate, to muster and disembark all persons and cargo onboard;
- d) Perform operations, as appropriate, to ensure protection of the marine environment;
- e) Undertake administrative tasks required for the safe operation and the security of the ship;
- f) Provide medical care on board ships.

6. Special Requirements for the Minimum Safe Number of Crew of a Ship:

6.1 Safely manned crew of the ship does not include passengers and personnel serving on passenger ship.

6.2 Ships operating with a prescribed manning of ten or more are required to carry a fully qualified cook.

6.3 On ships operating with a prescribed manning of less than ten which, by virtue of the size of the crew or the trading pattern, may not be required to carry a fully qualified cook, anyone processing food in the galley shall be trained or instructed in areas including food and personal hygiene as well as handling and storage of food on board ship.

6.4 A ship with main electric propulsion system and high voltage (more than 1000 volts) must have additional electro technical officer qualified in accordance with provisions of STCW convention, as amended.

6.5 A ship equipped with GMDSS radio equipment must have at least two GMDSS radio operator’s qualified in accordance with provisions of STCW convention, as amended.

6.6 Ships carrying 100 or more persons and ordinarily engaged on international voyages of more than three days’ duration shall carry a qualified medical doctor who is responsible for providing medical care.

6.7 ship which do not carry a medical doctor shall be required to have either at least one seafarer on board who is in charge of medical care and administering medicine as part of their regular duties or at least one seafarer on board competent to provide medical first aid; persons in charge of medical care on board who are not medical doctors shall have satisfactorily completed training in medical care or medical first aid, qualified in accordance with provisions of STCW convention, as amended.

7. Obligations of Ship Owners:

7.1 In accordance with provisions of Section A-I/14 of the STCW Code, shipowner, ship operator or Management Company of a ship flying the Georgian flag shall ensure that every crew member employed on such a ship, be in full compliance with the regulation.

7.2 The shipowner, ship operator or management company of a ship flying the Georgian flag or a managing company shall ensure:

- a) Each seafarer assigned to any of its ships holds an appropriate certificate, issued in accordance with Georgia national law and/or international Bilateral Agreement (Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)) Pursuant to Regulation I/10 of STCW convention as amended)
- b) Documentation and data relevant to all seafarers employed on its ships are maintained and readily accessible, and include, without being

- limited to, documentation and data on their experience, training, medical fitness and competence in assigned duties;
- c) On being assigned to any of its ships seafarers are familiarised with their specific duties and with all ship arrangements, installations, equipment, procedures, and ship characteristics that are relevant to their routine or emergency duties;
 - d) The ship's crew can effectively coordinate their activities in an emergency situation and in performing functions vital to safety or to the prevention or mitigation of pollution;
 - e) Seafarers assigned to any of its ships have received refresher and updating training as required by the Convention;
 - f) Require that watch systems are so arranged that the efficiency of all watchkeeping personnel is not impaired by fatigue;
 - g) That duties are so organized that the first watch at the commencement of a voyage and subsequent relieving watches are sufficiently rested and otherwise fit for duty.

7.3 In the event of an emergency or drill or in other overriding operational conditions, it may not be required to maintain the periods of rest mentioned in paragraph “d” “f” and “g” of the section 8.1 of this circular.

7.4 Shipowner, ship operator or management company is obliged for the purpose of preventing drug and alcohol abuse, ensure that adequate measures are established in accordance with the provisions of section A-VIII/1 while taking into account the guidance given in section B-VIII/1 of the STCW Code.

7.5 Shipowner, ship operator or Management Company of a ship flying the Georgian flag is obliged to ensure appropriate accommodation for crew members.

7.6 Shipowner, ship operator or management company of a ship flying the Georgian flag, should maintain, or satisfy itself that there is efficient machinery for the investigation and settlement of complaints or disputes concerning the manning levels on a ship.

7.7 Shipowner, ship operator or management company of a ship flying the Georgian flag, may employ additional seafarers above the minimum standards specified in the safe manning certificate if the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) Appropriate accommodation is available for the additional seafarers;
- b) Sufficient life-saving appliances are available for the additional seafarers; and
- c) Safety familiarization training is given to them.

8. Requirements and Procedure for Issuance of Safe Manning Certificate:

8.1 Shipowner, ship operator or management company of a ship flying the Georgian flag, shall apply to MTA.

8.2 In an application for a safe manning certificate the company shall, in particular, provide detailed particulars of the ship, nature of trade, area of operation, and the minimum scale of manning with which the company would like to operate the ship.

8.3 Where the MTA is satisfied that the manning suggested by the company meets the requirements for safe operation of ship and protection of the marine environment, according to annex 1 of the regulation agency shall issue a safe manning Certificate for the ship, which is in full compliance with IMO Resolution A.1047 (27).

8.4 The period of validity of the Minimum Safe Manning Certificate is permanent, unless any changes to ships particulars are effected.

8.5 Provisional Minimum Safe Manning Certificate is issued for ships flying the Georgian flag in provisional navigation, with the indication of date of validity.

8.6 In case of change of company name, ship's class, technical particulars, trading area and/or crew working and rest condition, shipowner or company of a ship flying the Georgian flag, shall apply to the Agency to issue new minimum Safe manning certificate.

8.7 New minimum Safe manning certificate is issued when current certificate is lost or damaged.

8.8 Procedures and fees for issuance of Certificate are defined by Order № 1-1/592 Of the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia dated April 15, 2011 on Rules and Conditions on the Types, Terms, the Amount of Fees, also Method of Payment and Refund of Fees for the Services Rendered by Legal Entity of Public Law – Maritime Transport Agency.

9. Transitional Provisions:

9.1 The technical regulation enters into force **from July 4, 2020**.

9.2 Shipowner, ship operator or management company is obliged to implement minimum safe Manning requirements on board ships in accordance with the technical regulation **within 6 months from the date of the entry into force of the technical regulation (04 January 2021)**.

9.3 Decree No. 326 of the Government of Georgia of December 9, 2013 on the Approval of the Technical Regulation on the “Minimum Safe Manning Requirements for Ships Flying the Georgian Flag” shall be revoked from **04 July, 2020**.

10. Contact Details:

10.1 Shipowner, ship operator or management company of a ship flying the Georgian flag, may contact on below information for Additional consultations and assistance regarding minimum safe manning requirements and certification.

LEPL – Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia

Ships Registry and Flag Control Department

Tel: +995 (422) 274925

E-mail: fsi@mta.gov.ge

Hotline/AOH: +995 (577) 221622

Attachment:

- Annex I – Schedules of the Minimum Safe Manning Requirements for Ships Flying the Georgian Flag
- Annex II – Application form

Director

SIGNED/SEALED
ELECTRONICALLY 

Tamar Ioseliani

