



№ 10/CIRC/FSI

2021 / 05 /20

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

Subject : Dispensation permit to seafarers employed on ships flying the Georgian flag.

Reference:

- International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) as amended;
- Maritime Code of Georgia;
- Law of Georgia on “Seafarers Education and Certification”;
- Technical Regulation of the Government of Georgia “Minimum Safe Manning Requirements for Ships Flying the Georgian Flag”.

Note: This circular withdraws and replaces the following MTA Circular: Circular № 001/ FSI 001, issued on 09- March-2012 year.

1. Introduction:

1.1 Under exceptional circumstances, a Dispensation may be issued to permit a seafarer to serve on a specific ship for a specified period at a higher position than it is stipulated in their current Certificate of Competency.

1.2 Dispensations are issued strictly in accordance with Article VIII of the STCW Convention. Dispensations may be issued in exceptional circumstances, provided that the dispensation does not cause danger to person, property or the environment.

2. Purpose:

2.1 The aim of this Circular is to inform the owners, operators, managers, agents and masters of Georgian registered Ships regarding the requirements and procedures of the issuance of Dispensation permit to seafarers.

3. Application:

3.1 Requirement applies to all ships registered in the State Register of Ships of Georgia which are engaged in international and domestic voyages.

4. Definition of Terms:

4.1 exceptional necessity - as natural disasters or other “Acts of God” war, epidemic, fire, serious maritime accident or any other circumstance when it is reasonable impossible to manned ship in accordance with Minimum Safe Manning Requirements.

4.2 shortest period – granted dispensation permit as the period necessary to reach the next convenient port of call. Shipowner shall make all efforts to man the ship in accordance with Minimum Safe Manning Requirements in the next port of call.

5. General Provisions:

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

5.2 The dispensation permit is not an exemption from the safe manning requirement of the vessel or a substitute document to fulfill the deficiency of officers not properly certificated to assume the higher position.

5.3 Any dispensation granted for a rank shall be granted only to a person properly certificated to fill the rank immediately below

5.4 Dispensations shall not be granted to a master or chief engineer officer, except in circumstances of force majeure and then only for the shortest possible period.

6. Dispensation permit:

6.1 In circumstances of death, illness and/or injury of a seafarer, as well as in case of exceptional necessity when the services of a duly qualified officer are not available, Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia (hereinafter referred as "MTA") for an appropriate period, may issue a dispensation giving the right to seafarer to perform his duties to a seafarer that does not have a relevant certificate, if MTA is satisfied that the seafarer is adequately qualified.

6.2 The period of the dispensation permit shall not be more than 2 months.

5.3 Dispensation permit for the master and chief engineer must be issue, not more than 1 month, only in case of a seafarer's death, illness and/or injury, as well as in case other exceptional necessity.

6.4 Dispensation permit shall issue for a radio specialist and radio telephone operator, except as provided by the relevant Radio Regulations.

6.5 Dispensation permit for any rank will be issued only to the person that has a certificate of competence that is suitable for a rank lower than the position.

6.6 Shipowner shall replace a seafarer without an appropriate certificate with a duly certified seafarer in the shortest period of time.

7. Communication:

7. MTA shall send a report to the Secretary-General, to give information of the total number of dispensations in respect of each capacity for which a certificate is required that have been issued during the year to ships, together with information as to the numbers of those ships above and below 1,600 GT respectively.

8. Contact Details:

8.1 Shipowner, Recognized Organizations, ship operator or Management Company of a ship flying the Georgian flag may contact MTA for Additional consultations and assistance.

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Director

SIGNED/SEALED
ELECTRONICALLY 

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