



Maritime Circular No.24

To:

Ship – Owners / Managers / Operators, Registration Officers (RegOffs), Recognised Organisations (ROs), SLMARAD Departments (All)

Subject:

Requirements for vessels undertaking a single voyage under tow

Date:

11th January 2017

References:

IMO MSC/Circ. 884

Purpose

To inform the Recognised Organisations (ROs) 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

1. This circular applies to all vessels registered for a single voyage under tow.
2. All vessels that are registered to undertake one single voyage under tow should have, at the time of departure the following certificates:
 - a. International Tonnage Certificate, if applicable as per Article 3 of the ITC, 1969
 - b. Load Line Certificate, if applicable as per Article 4 of the ICLL, 1966 as amended
 - c. Towage Certificate following the guidelines of the IMO MSC/Circ. 884
 - d. Tow plan arrangements
 - e. BCC Certificate
 - f. Crew Dispensation or Crew COC, if the vessel will be manned
 - g. Exemptions issued by the Flag Administration, if applicable
3. General Tow Guidelines
 - a. During the tow survey, Recognized Organizations must ensure that the **towing vessel**:
 - i. Has valid certificates/licences for the intended voyage
 - ii. Has valid certificates/licences for Master and other crew members on board
 - iii. Has updated nautical charts for the intended voyage

- iv. Has appropriate navigational lights, shapes & radio equipment
 - v. Has available equipment to be used for towing and in good condition
 - vi. Has available fire-fighting & lifesaving appliances, and in good condition
 - vii. Has available towing & emergency/spare towing gear and arrangements, and in good condition
 - viii. Has sufficient amount of fuel on board for the intended voyage.
- b. During tow survey, Recognized Organizations must ensure for the **vessel being towed**:
- i. 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 Recognised Organisation (RO)
 - ii. Drafts of the vessel are checked with adequate intact stability
 - iii. Has the required navigation lights and shapes in good condition
 - iv. The battery capacity is sufficient for navigational lights to work during the intended voyage
 - v. Spare light bulbs for navigating lights available on board
 - vi. Closing arrangement for deck openings in satisfactory condition and secured properly
 - vii. Cargo, equipment & store are properly secured
 - viii. Availability and readiness of anchor for emergency use
 - ix. Boarding facilities are properly rigged on the tow
4. It is the responsibility of the Recognised Organisation (RO) 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 US\$ 3,000.00 to the owner of the vessel.
7. The above policy will enter into effect as of **11th January 2017**.

For additional information please contact SLMARAD at info@slmarad.com

Revision Status

Date	Revision	Comments - Changes
11/01/2017	0	Initial - Adopted