



International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize  
**IMMARBE**

PARIS MOU POLICY

**To:** All Recognized Organizations, Deputy Registrars, Ship Owners and Operators

**Reference:** Circular Letter No. IMM/GOB 001/13 (*Issued under the authority of the Merchant Ships (Registration) Act. of 2010 (Part 1/Section 5)*)

**Issuance date:** 1st. March, 2017

**Revision No. (mm/dd/yy):**

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**MSN Superseded:** NONE

**Pages:** Four (4)

**1. Purpose**

Dear All:

Reference is made to our Circular Letter No. IMM/GOB 001/13 issued on 1st November 2013.

After an evaluation of the results of such a policy, it is evident that our Circular Letter No. IMM/GOB 001/13 regarding our Paris MOU Policy has not provided the desired results as Belize continues to appear in the Blacklist of the Paris MOU. On the contrary, our Registry is losing presence in that area which has led to a significant decrease of the amount of inspections thereby increasing the difficulty of efforts to improve our performance in the Paris MOU in order to get off the blacklist in the near future.

After serious consideration of the effects of having a Blacklisted flag coupled with the fact that Belize needs to review its registration policy with an aim to

accomplish our future expansion goals, we have decided to revoke our Circular Letter No. IMM/GOB 001/13 and enforce with immediate effect the directives applicable to the following:

1. **Registration of vessels intending to operate in the Paris MOU,**
2. **Current vessels operating in the area, and**
3. **Occasional Survey Program for detained vessels operating in the area:**
4. **Vessels operating in the Paris Mou not subject to the Occasional Survey Program**

- 1) No new entries of vessels of 20 years or older **detained in the past 24 months** will be accepted with Non-IACS RO classification/certification. This opens the door for more registrations, however, the Belize Administration reserves the right to conduct a thorough technical evaluation and to reject the certification by a Non-IACS organization of any new vessel entry; even a vessel that has not been detained in the past 24 months.
- 2) Vessels currently on the Belize Register of 20 years or more which were accepted by this Administration as IACS certified, will not be permitted to change to a Non-IACS company as this also immediately raises the target factor for inspections and by extension detentions.
- 3) All registered vessels regardless of age detained in the Paris MOU in the past 12 months will immediately enter into our **Occasional Survey Program** for a period of 24 months starting from the date of detention with the intention to minimize the risk of further detentions.
  - 3.1) This occasional survey will be performed by the RO that issued the statutory certificates; in the case that the vessel is holding statutory certificates issued by a different RO, the occasional survey shall be carried out by the RO that issued the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate, Load Line Certificate, Safety Equipment Certificate, or the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate. After completion of the survey, the RO shall issue a Statement and shall communicate to IMMARBE's Technical Department, prior to the vessel's departure to a port located within a country member of the Paris MOU. The Statement together with the Survey Report shall be submitted directly to IMMARBE Technical Department: [technicalofficer@immarbe.com](mailto:technicalofficer@immarbe.com); [technicalofficer2@immarbe.com](mailto:technicalofficer2@immarbe.com); [techsupport@immarbe.com](mailto:techsupport@immarbe.com).
  - 3.2) The scope of such occasional survey must cover all conditions as far as practicable relating to construction, security, pollution prevention, maritime safety, maritime labor and compliance with all national and international regulations applicable to the vessel; in other words, the scope will be equivalent to Annual Surveys. If deficiencies are found at the time of the occasional survey, they need to be rectified as soon as possible and prior to entering any Paris MOU port.
  - 3.3) This occasional survey will be valid for six (6) months and can be advanced with the purpose to make it concurrent with the annual, intermediate, or renewal survey, but it may not be delayed for these same reasons. This means that, if the vessel is still trading to ports within the Paris MOU, and the occasional survey was carried out more than six months ago, a new occasional shall be carried out.



- 3.4) The operators and owners are under the obligation to request such survey ahead of time to the RO. It is the obligation of the RO, which certifies the vessel, to notify the operators and owners the need to conduct such survey under the conditions established by this Circular. When this survey is requested by operators or owners for any reason, the RO cannot avoid the responsibility to carry out this survey.
- 3.5) In the case that our Administration identifies a vessel to be included in the Occasional Survey Program, which are operating within the ports of country members to the Paris MOU, the occasional survey must be performed before the vessel departs the port where it may be at the time this circular is implemented.
- 3.6) In the case that the RO had issued the vessels Statutory Certificates within a thirty (30) days' time frame, the Technical Department of IMMARBE can accept the submission of a Statement from the RO stating that the vessel is found in compliance with this circular, which will have a validity of six (6) months.
- 3.7) The Technical Department will recommend disciplinary actions against RO if a vessel is detained within the Paris MOU jurisdiction immediately after an occasional survey as described above has been carried out.
- 3.8) Those vessels subject to the requirements established in this circular, which do not perform the obligatory occasional survey or that are detained two (2) times within a six (6) months period by a Maritime Authority member of the Paris MOU, will be fined and cancelled from the registry.
- 4) All Belize registered vessels operating within Paris Mou Area or intended to call any Paris Mou Port shall comply with all requirements stated in our Merchant Marine Notice 15-01 regarding PSC Analysis of Detentions and submit relevant PSC Checklist and Crew List within the time frame stated in this notice to IMMARBE Technical Department: [technicalofficer@immarbe.com](mailto:technicalofficer@immarbe.com); [technicalofficer2@immarbe.com](mailto:technicalofficer2@immarbe.com); [techsupport@immarbe.com](mailto:techsupport@immarbe.com) prior proceeding to any Paris Mou Port.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

*Those ROs with the most detentions in a period of a year of this circular coming into effect will be issued with warning letters by the Belize Administration. The Belize Administration may cancel the authorization granted to a repeat offender RO if deem necessary during the initial evaluation of its performance.*

*Additionally, all new registration cases where owners wish to appoint poor performing ROs will be evaluated on a case by case basis before approval to certify the ship is given.*

The following is a guideline for the imposition of fines for detentions and other offences. Bear in mind that these guidelines are applied taking into consideration the size and type of vessel, the severity of the offence, record of previous offences, etc.,

- \$3,000 to \$4,000: Detentions as a result of first detention due to serious violations of STCW or SOLAS, violation of any traffic separation scheme, vessel over loading, etc.,
- \$4,500 to \$5,000: Second detention within 12 months, disregard of restrictions imposed on navigation patents, permits to proceed or prohibition from sailing notices, recurring crew related matters.
- \$6,000 -\$15,000: Very poor safety record-3 or more detentions within a year, major safety deficiencies, forged statutory certificates, contravention of MARPOL, unauthorized flying of the Belize flag, e.g. after obtainment of permission to charter out, after ex-officio/official cancellation.
- \$16,000 to \$50,000: Major offences/violations such as drug trafficking, oil spills, contraband, human trafficking, etc.

## 2. Information

For any questions or further information on the above, please contact:

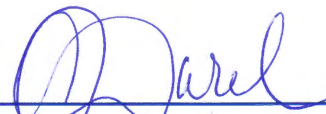
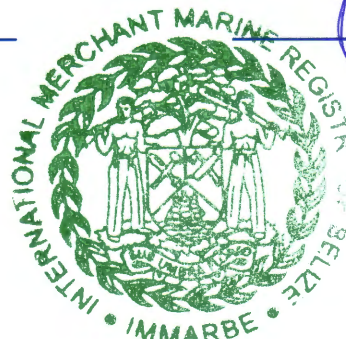
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The circular was issued in Belize City, Belize on **1st March, 2017**



Eduardo Simon  
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**IMMARBE**



Annette Garel (Mrs.)  
Senior Deputy Registrar  
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