



# IMMARBE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE

**CIRCULAR LETTER No. IMM/GOB 001/18**

*Issued under the authority of the Merchant Ships (Registration) Act of 2010 (Part 1/Section 5)*

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**To: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS**

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**Subject: THE NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE REMOVAL OF WRECKS, 2007 (WRECK REMOVAL CONVENTION)**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007 (Wreck Removal Convention) was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in May 2007. On 14 April 2014 the Convention achieved the requisite number of ratifications causing the entry into force on 14 April 2015.

1.2. The Wreck Removal Convention provides a strict liability, compensation and compulsory insurance regime for States affected by a maritime casualty. It makes the registered owner of a ship liable for locating, marking and removing a wreck deemed to be a hazard in a State's Convention area

1.3. The Government of Belize has authorized the accession of the Wreck Removal Convention through a resolution adopted on the 25th October 2017 in accordance with Section 61A (2)(b) of the Belize Constitution. It was signed by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Belize, on the 30th day of November, 2017.

## 2. APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

2.1. All Belize registered ships of 300 GT and above (except for those vessels falling under Article 4 Exclusions) are required to carry on board a certificate attesting that insurance or other financial security is in force in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

## 3. LIABILITY COVER

3.1. It is the Registered Owner's responsibility to obtain insurance or financial security to cover liability under this Convention.

Control No: CIR-01

Page: 1 of 4

Date January 15, 2018

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3.2. A Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Security Liability for the Removal of Wrecks (Wreck Removal Certificate) may be issued for insured parties where insurance cover is provided by:

1. Protection and Indemnity Club which is a member of The International Group of P&I Clubs; or
2. Member of an insurance body/group of similar international standing or
3. Banking Corporation or Financial Institutions of similar international standing

3.3. Proof of Insurance or other Financial Security must be provided in the form of:

1. A "Blue Card" -usually issued by P&I Clubs; or
2. An "Insurance certificate"; or
3. A "financial guarantee certificate".

3.4. The certificate showing proof of insurance must indicate:

1. Name of Ship
2. Gross Tonnage of the Ship
3. Name of Registered Owner
4. Principal place of business of registered Owner
5. IMO Ship Identification Number
6. Distinctive Numbers/Letters
7. Port of Registry
8. Must State "This is to certify that there is in force in respect of the above-named ship while in above-named ownership a policy of Insurance satisfying the requirement of Article 12 of the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007. (Wreck Removal Convention)
9. Period of the Insurance
10. Insurance cover will not cease before three months has lapsed from the date on which notice of termination is given.
11. Name of Insurer or Guarantor
12. Principal place of business of Insurer or Guarantor.

3.5. Belize registered vessels need only supply proof of liability cover, together with the requisite fee or receipt of payment, in order to initiate the process of certificate by this Administration.

3.6. For vessels which are registered with non-State parties, in addition to the proof of liability cover and requisite fee, the following are required:

1. Application form
2. Copy of valid navigation patent issued by vessel's Registry.
3. Certificate furnished as Evidence of Insurance Pursuant to Article 12 of the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007.

#### **4. CERTIFICATION**

- 4.1. A Wreck Removal Certificate will be issued by IMMARBE for a maximum insurance period of 12 months to confirm each vessel is in compliance with the Convention.
- 4.2. The certificate will be issued in accordance with Article 12 of the Convention and relevant Belize legislation upon receipt of proof of insurance or financial security from the vessel's P&I Club or another appropriate financial guarantor.
- 4.3. If there are any changes to the issued certificate, the owner must inform IMMARBE immediately, for any change will invalidate the certificate.

#### **5. FEES**

- 5.1. Belize registered vessels: US\$250.00
- 5.2. Vessels registered in States not party to the Convention: US\$300.00
- 5.3. All Wreck Removal Certificates will be forwarded to the applicant by courier.

Courier fees are: US\$50.00 for North America, South America and the Caribbean

US\$75.00 All other countries

#### **6. MAKING AN APPLICATION**

6.1. For ships registered with a non-state party, an application form must be completed for the issuance of a Wreck Removal Certificate.

The form may be forwarded to IMMARBE via electronic copy to [immarbe@immarbe.com](mailto:immarbe@immarbe.com) or any of its designated offices worldwide. The application form Number **F-169-WRC** is attached to this circular but may be downloaded from our website [www.immarbe.com](http://www.immarbe.com).

6.2. All details must be provided in full, in order to expedite processing of the Wreck Removal Certificate

6.3. To ensure an application for a Wreck Removal Certificate is processed quickly, please ensure that all requirements as stated under 3.3. above are submitted.

6.4. All Belize registered requiring renewal of their Wreck Removal Certificate need to apply to the Belize Administration for renewal. IMMARBE will no longer accept Wreck Removal Certificates to be issued by other member states of the Convention to its fleet of ships.

6.5. Any Wreck Removal Certificate issued to a Belize Registered vessel by other recognized State Party prior to the accession of this Convention will be valid until its expiration. Upon expiration, the renewal shall be done in accordance with above item 6.4

6.6. If any changes should occur on the insurance coverage/financial security or early termination, the parties should notify immediately IMMARBEL of these changes in order to update the certificate.

## **7. OFFENCES**

7.1. Any shipowner and operator who disregards the provisions contained in this Circular could face disciplinary actions as contained in our Statutory Instrument No. 56 of 1999, Registration of Merchant Ships Disciplinary Regulations 1999.



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Senior Deputy Registrar  
IMMARBE HEAD  
OFFICE

