



TO ALL MEMBERS

7 October 2008

Dear Sirs

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE BUNKERS CONVENTION – STATE CERTIFICATION

Members are referred to the previous Club circulars that have been issued on the entry into force of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage 2001 (the “Bunkers Convention”) and the State certification requirements contained therein.

The previous circular informed members that the UK, Liberia and Cyprus, as States party to the Bunkers Convention, have agreed to issue State certificates to ships registered in non-State parties irrespective of whether they are calling at a port in their territory or arriving at or leaving an offshore facility in their territorial waters after the entry into force date on 21 November 2008. Cyprus will not however issue certificates to ships flying the flag of a State that appears in the Black List of the Paris MOU according to the Annual Report of the Paris MOU for the year preceding the date of the request.

A small number of other administrations have since agreed to issue certificates to ships registered in non-State parties as well, namely the Cook Islands, Bahamas, Sierra Leone and the Isle of Man. The relevant contact details for Bunkers Convention State certificates in each of these administrations are contained in the Annex to this circular, as are the contact details for certificates in the UK, Liberia and Cyprus.

It should be noted that the UK has to date only extended UK ratification of the Bunkers Convention to the Isle of Man and not to any of the other UK Overseas Territories/Crown Dependencies. Ships registered in one of the Red Ensign Group of registries other than the Isle of Man can in the meantime obtain their certificates from the UK.

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The Standard Steamship Owners’ Protection and Indemnity Association (Bermuda) Limited
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The Cook Islands has also entered into an arrangement with the Panamanian Maritime Authority (PMA) to issue certificates for Panamanian registered ships pending Panama's ratification of the Bunker Convention. Members with Panamanian registered ships who wish to obtain their certificates from the Cook Islands should refer to the PMA Merchant Marine Circular No. 180 at the following web address:

<http://www.segumar.com/HTML%20Merchant%20Marine%20Circulars/180c.pdf>

The position with regard to States party to the Convention and those that are willing to issue certificates to ships registered in non-State parties is continuously changing. A number of other States are also in the process of working towards ratification of, or accession to, the Bunkers Convention prior to the entry into force date on 21 November 2008 and may decide to issue their own State certificates from the date of their ratification or accession.

However, members should be aware that the Convention shall only enter into force in a State three months after the date of that State's ratification or accession. There is a risk that other State parties may deem certificates issued by a State party to be valid only after three months has elapsed since the issuing State's ratification of or accession to the Convention. Ships in possession of a certificate issued by a State party prior to the date on which the three months has elapsed should therefore be aware that they risk being detained or fined if they enter the port of another State party after the entry into force date of the Convention on 21 November 2008 and are not in possession of a valid certificate. Club cover may be prejudiced in the event of such a detention or fines.

This risk does not apply to ships in possession of a certificate issued by any of the State parties mentioned in this or previous circulars since they have all ratified or acceded to the Convention three months prior to the entry into force date.

All clubs in the International Group of P&I Clubs have issued similar circulars.

Yours faithfully

Alistair Groom
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ANNEX

States Party to the Convention (as at 30 September 2008)

Bahamas, Bulgaria, Cook Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Liberia, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Norway, Poland, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Tonga, the United Kingdom¹ and Vanuatu.

Full List of Contact Details

UK

CLC Bunkers
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/13
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton SO15 1EG
UK

Telephone: +44 (0)23 80329110 (public enquiries)
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9447
Internet: <http://www.ukshipregister.co.uk/ukr-home/forms.htm>
Email address (s): bunkers@mcga.gov.uk
General Enquiries: infoline@mcga.gov.uk
Contact person: Richard Tong, + 44 (0)23 80 329202

Liberia

Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry
ATTN: Bunker CLC Applications
8619 Westwood Center Drive, Suite 300
Vienna, Virginia 22182, USA

Tel: 1+ 703 790 3434
Fax: 1+ 703 790 5655
Email contact: clc@lisscr.com

¹ Includes extension of the Convention to the Isle of Man



Cyprus

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Internet: www.shipping.gov.cy
Contact person(s): telephone direct: + 357 25 848 237

The Cook Islands

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Website: <http://www.maritimecookislands.com/bunker-insurance.php>

Bahamas

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Sierra Leone

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Tel: 1-504-636-1387
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Website: <http://sierraleoneship.com>

Isle of Man

Department of Trade and Industry
Isle of Man Ship Registry
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