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Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 4:33 PM
To:
Subject: Regulatory Notice: Nairobi Convention on the Removal of Wrecks (WRC)
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LIBERIAN REGISTRY

Regulatory Update - International Wreck Convention

We are pleased to provide this regulatory update for your better understanding of a new IMO Convention that is coming into force on 14 April 2015.

This update summarizes the new Convention and action required by the shipowner to ensure that their vessels are in compliance.

The Convention

The Nairobi International convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007 (WRC) was the result of an initial request from coastal states advocating for international rules covering the financial liability of shipwrecks in their territory.

The convention will come into force on 14 April 2015. From that date all vessels 300 gross tons and larger are required to be insured or have financial security to cover the liability under the WRC. The most common form of this cover is a “WRC Blue Card” from a P&I Club. Liberia became a party to the

Convention on 8 January 2015 and WRC certificates issued to any vessel, regardless of flag, by Liberia will be valid when the Convention comes into force.

Key elements of the convention

- Applies to the Exclusive Economic Zone beyond the territorial seas unless the coastal State has also extended the applicability to its territorial sea
- Shipowners are financially responsible for the cost of wreck removal with coverage arranged through their P&I Club which will issue Blue Cards as evidence of coverage
- On 14 April 2015, ship's wherever registered must have on board a valid WRC certificate, as evidence of insurance or other financial security, when entering or leaving the jurisdiction of another State Party. Convention Article 12-12
- Shipowners with ships not registered in a State that is a Party to the convention may obtain certificates from **any** other State that is a Party. Convention Article 12-2
- Certificates issued by **any** State Party shall be accepted for the purposes of the WRC and shall be regarded as having the same force as certificates issued or certified by them, even if issued for a ship not registered in a State Party. Convention Article 12-9
- Liberia is currently processing and issuing hundreds of WRC certificates for ships registered in States that are not Party to the WRC.
- A registry-issued certificate must be presented to port state authorities

upon request

- Certificates are renewable yearly by February 20th in line with CLC and Bunker CLC certificates

The following countries are parties to this Convention and whose certificates will be valid as of the date the Convention comes into force: *Antigua & Barbuda, Bulgaria, Congo, Cook Islands, Denmark, Germany, India, Iran, Liberia, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Morocco, Nigeria, Palau and the United Kingdom*. Vessels flagged in these countries will need to apply for a certificate from their respective flag state. Certificates for bareboat-registered vessels will be issued by the flag the vessel currently flies, if that flag is a Party.

Liberia issuing WRC certificates for non-party flag vessels

Liberia is currently processing and issuing hundreds of WRC certificates for ships registered in States that are not Party to the WRC as evidence of compliance with the Convention as of 14 April 2015.

The Convention allows shipowners with ships registered in States that are not Party to the WRC the right to choose the State Party they want to issue WRC certificates, regardless of non-party recommendations.

Certificates issued by Liberia for non-Liberian registered vessels not party to the Convention will be recognized by port state authorities. Applicants will receive electronic certificates by email. Clients can alternatively request a hard copy of the certificate. All registry certificates are verifiable online.

Vessel owners can apply for a Liberian WRC Certificate via the application in our Marine Notice ([PDF Link](#)). Additional details on the Convention is available on our website (www.liscr.com).

We encourage you to contact us at vesselcertificates@liscr.com with your

questions and requests.

The Liberian Ship Registry

The Liberian Registry is one of the world's largest and most active shipping registers, and has long been considered the world's most technologically advanced maritime administration. It has a long-established track record of combining the highest standards of safety for vessels and crews with the highest levels of responsive service to owners.

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