



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° GEN 031

NATIONAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-CONVENTION VESSELS

TO:	SHIPOWNERS (OWNERS)/SHIP OPERATORS, MASTERS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS (RO) AND FLAG STATE INSPECTORS
APPLICABLE TO:	Ships of less than 500 gross tons (GT) engaged in international voyages
EFFECTIVE AS FROM:	The first renewal survey for the "Statement of Compliance with IACS 99 Safety Recommendations for Non-Conventional Vessels" (SoC)

15th April 2025

1. General

This circular clarifies the national safety requirements of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for vessels not covered by international conventions. It also standardizes the procedures for issuing a "Statement of Compliance with IACS 99 Safety Recommendations for Non-Conventional Vessels" (IACS 99) to applicable categories of vessels. Please refer to Circular GEN 002.

2. Applicability

This Administration recognizes IACS 99 as establishing the minimum regulatory requirements for vessels of less than 500 GT and mandates its application.

This Circular applies to ships of less than 500 GT engaged in international voyages. For definition of international voyage please refer to Circular GEN 016.

This Circular does not apply to:

- Pleasure or Commercial Yachts (SVG Yacht Codes are applicable),
- Crew Boats (GEN 011A circular is applicable)
- Vessels or units certified under the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Codes or the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships.
- Vessels which operate within the Caribbean Region, for which the Code of Safety for Caribbean Cargo Ships (CCSS Code) or the Code of Safety for Small Commercial Vessels trading in the Caribbean Region (SCV Code) as appropriate are applicable.

3. Certification

The applicable vessels, as mentioned above, shall comply with IACS 99.

Qualifying vessels shall be issued a SoC. All surveys necessary for the issuance and maintenance of the document's validity shall be carried out by ROs on behalf of this Administration.

The SoC shall be issued by ROs on behalf of this Administration, to all vessels upon completion of an Initial or Renewal Survey and must be supplemented by a Record of Equipment (NCV).

The SoC will be valid for five (5) years, running concurrently with the five-year Classification period between special surveys. However, it will be subject to annual verification surveys

conducted by RO surveyors. Upon completion of the annual verification, the RO's surveyor shall endorse the SoC accordingly.

The Annual Survey shall be conducted within a window of three months before or after the anniversary date of the validity of the certificate.

If the SoC is issued by an RO on behalf of the Administration, a copy of the document must be sent to: technical@svg-marad.com or qualtech@svg-marad.com for verification and filing.

The survey content must be sufficient for the surveyor to verify that the vessel and its equipment are in satisfactory condition for the intended service, as defined by IACS 99, and that it complies with its respective Chapters, as follows:

- Chapter IV – Fire Fighting
- Chapter V – Life Saving Appliances
- Chapter VI – Radio Installations
- Chapter VII – Navigational Equipment
- Chapter VIII – Prevention of Collisions

The survey shall include an inspection of firefighting equipment, lifesaving equipment, and, to the maximum possible extent, an operational check of the vessel's navigation and radio equipment.

4. Exemptions

Any request for exemptions must be handled in accordance with GEN 001 and supported by the RO. The decision to grant an exemption will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be documented.

Any exemption granted by this Administration will be recorded in the SoC.

5. MARPOL

All vessels will be required to comply with the requirements of MARPOL

6. International Convention for the control and Management of Ship's Ballast Water and sediments

Ships of 400 GT and above are required to carry the following on board:

- A "Ballast Water Management Plan", approved by the RO on behalf of this Administration, in accordance with a process developed by the IMO.
- A "Ballast Water Record Book" for recording each operation related to ballast water management.
- An "International Ballast Water Management Certificate", valid for five (5) years and subject to annual, intermediate, and renewal surveys or exemption.

Please refer to BWM 004 Circular.

7. Maritime Labour Convention (MLC)

Ships of less than 500 GT are subject to MLC inspection by RO at least every three (3) years.

Please refer to MLC 007 Circular.

8. International Convention on the Control of Harmful Antifouling Systems on Ships

A Statement of Compliance with the International Convention on the Control of Harmful AntiFouling Systems on Ships is required for all ships of 400 GT and above.

A Declaration on AntiFouling Systems, signed by the Owner or the Owner's authorized agent, along with the appropriate documentation, is required for all ships of less than 400 GT.

9. Radio communication requirements

All vessels must comply with the requirements of Chapter IV, Regulation 4 of SOLAS '74, as amended. They shall be equipped with and maintain the radio equipment required by SOLAS Chapter IV, as amended, for the Sea Area in which they operate.

All vessels of 300 GT and above must hold a valid Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate issued by a RO.

All vessels must also comply with the applicable requirements of SOLAS Chapter V.

All vessels of 300 GT and above must be fitted as follow:

- Regulation 19.2.4 regarding the Automatic Identification System (AIS).
- Regulation 19-1 concerning Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT).

9.1 Qualified Radio Operators on Board

- Sea Area A1: The Master must hold a GMDSS radio operator's license (ROC or GOC).
- Sea Areas A2, A3, and A4: Two licensed radio operators are required—the Master and either the Chief Mate or a Deck Officer—both holding a GMDSS radio operator's license (GOC).

10. International Load Line Convention

New vessels of 24 meters or more in length and existing vessels of 150 GT or above, engaged on any international voyage, will be required to carry an International Load Line Certificate, in addition to the Statement of Compliance (SoC).

11. Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007

A Wreck Removal Certificate (WRC) attesting that insurance or other financial security is in force, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, shall be issued to each ship of 300 gt and above by this Administration. Please refer to GEN 026 Circular for further details.

12. Additional requirement: Emergency Escape Breathing Devices (EEBD)

In addition to IACS 99, vessels between 300 GT and 500 GT are required to carry at least one EEBD. The EEBD must be stowed in the engine room in a manner that allows rapid access during emergencies.

13. Carriage of Cargoes

Ships carrying the cargoes specified below should comply with the applicable requirements of Chapters VI and VII of the SOLAS Convention:

- Grain and other cargoes in bulk
- Dangerous cargoes in packaged form or in bulk
- Liquid chemicals in bulk
- Liquefied gases in bulk

14. Maintenance of Conditions after Survey

The Owner and Master of every ship to which this Circular applies shall ensure that the condition of the ship and its equipment is maintained in compliance with the provisions of IACS 99 and that the ship, in all respects, remains fit to proceed to sea.

After any survey of the ship under IACS 99 has been completed, no changes shall be made to the structural arrangement, machinery, equipment, or other surveyed items without the approval of this Administration.

If an incident occurs or a defect is discovered that affects the safety of the ship or the efficiency or completeness of its life-saving appliances or other equipment, this Administration must be immediately informed by the ship's Master or Owner.

15. Major Modifications, Alterations, and Repairs

Major modifications, alterations, and repairs, along with related outfitting on existing ships, must comply with the requirements prescribed for a new ship, to the extent deemed reasonable and practicable by this Administration.

Such modifications, alterations, and repairs, including related outfitting, must be:

- Approved by a RO;
- Carried out in the presence of the RO.

For the purpose of this Circular, the following repairs, alterations, and modifications shall be considered "major":

- Any change that substantially alters the ship's dimensions.
- Any modification that significantly increases the ship's service life.
- Any conversion that alters the vessel's functional aspects.

16. Manning and Qualifications of Crew

All ships must be manned in accordance with the Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD) issued by this Administration.

Applications for MSMDs must be submitted to this Administration in accordance with SOL 029 circular.

17. Drills and onboard familiarization

Rescue boat, lifeboat and fire drills shall be carried out at least every month. At least once in every three months the drill shall consist of the rescue boat or lifeboat being launched in water and manoeuvred. Freefall lifeboats shall be launched in water at least once in every six months.

Onboard familiarisation training in the use of the vessel's lifesaving appliances, including survival craft equipment, shall be given as soon as possible but not later than one week after a crew member or person joins the vessel. The dates when drills and familiarisation specified above are held shall be recorded in the vessel's logbook.

All vessels shall have their name plates, signs, notices, plans, manuals and documents relating to the safety and operation of the vessel drawn up both in the vessel's working language and in English (if the working language onboard is different from English).

18. Incident and Casualty

In the event of an accident involving the ship that results in loss of life or the ship being materially damaged, stranded, abandoned, or lost, the Master or Owner must inform the Administration **immediately** in accordance with Circular GEN 023.

19. Compliance

Existing SoCs issued by the RO will remain valid until their expiry. New SoCs shall be issued in accordance with this Circular.

Owners, Ship Operators, and Masters are required to ensure compliance with this Circular well in advance of the first renewal survey for the SoC.

Annex to this Circular:
Sample SoC and its Record of Equipment (Form NCV)

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

with the provision of the

“ IACS Recommendations for the Safety of Cargo Vessels of less than Convention Size (No., 99)

This statement shall be supplemented by a Record of Equipment (Form V)

Under the Authority of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by.....

Name of Ship:	
Distinctive number:	
Port of registry:	
IMO Number:	
Gross tonnage:	
Type of Ship:	
Service area:	
Date on which keel was laid:	

THIS IS TO CERTIFY:

1. That the vessel has been surveyed and survey showed that the vessel complied with the relevant requirements of the following chapters of the above Recommendations;

- ☐ Chapter IV, Fire Fighting
- ☐ Chapter V, Life Saving Appliances
- ☐ Chapter VI, Radio Installations for Sea Areas: _____
- ☐ Chapter VII, Navigational Equipment
- ☐ Chapter VIII, Prevention of Collisions

As required for the aforementioned **service area**, and

2. That the condition of the vessel's structure, machinery and equipment was satisfactory.
3. That an Exemption Certificate has / has not * been issued.

This statement is valid until subject to the annual surveys

Completion date of the survey on which this statement is based:

Issued at

Place of issue

Date of issue

Signature of Authorised
person

* Delete as appropriate

Endorsement for annual surveys

This is to certify that, at a survey, the ship was found to comply with the relevant requirements of the Recommendation.

Annual survey:

Signed:

Surveyor,

Place:

Date:

Annual survey:

Signed:

Surveyor,

Place:

Date:

Annual survey:

Signed:

Surveyor,

Place:

Date:

Annual survey:

Signed:

Surveyor,

Place:

Date:

RECORD OF EQUIPMENT (FORM NCV)

for compliance with the

IACS Recommendations for the Safety of Cargo Vessels of less than Convention Size (No.99)

This Record shall be permanently attached to the Statement of Compliance No.

1. Particulars of ship

Name of ship:	
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Distinctive number or letters:	
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2. Details of life – saving appliances			
Total number of persons for which life – saving appliances are provided			
2.1	Number of davit launched lifeboats	PORT side	STBD side
2.2	Total number of persons accommodated by them		
2.3	Number of totally enclosed fire protected lifeboats		
2.4	Number of lifeboats with a self – contained air support system		
3	Number of free-fall lifeboats		
3.1	Total number of persons accommodated by them		
4	Number of rescue boats with its launching appliances		
4.1	Number of rescue boats which are included in the total lifeboats shown in 2 and 3 above		
5	Number of liferafts		
5.1	Number of persons accommodated by them		
6	Number of lifebuoys		
7	Number of lifejackets		
8	Number of immersion suits		
8.1	Number of suits complying with the requirements of lifejackets		
9	Number of rocket parachute flares		
10	Number of line-throwing apparatus		
11	General emergency alarm		

3. Details of navigational equipment		
	Item	Actual provision
3.1	Standard magnetic compass*	
3.2	Spare magnetic compass*	
3.3	Pelorus or compass bearing device	
3.4	Means of correction heading and bearings	
3.5	Receiver for a global navigation satellite system (GPS)	
3.6	9GHz Radar	
3.7	Electronic plotting aid	
3.8	Nautical charts or ECDIS with its back up arrangements	
3.9	Nautical Publications in paper or in electronic form with its back up arrangements	
3.10	Long range identification and tracking (LRIT)	
3.11	Automatic identification system (AIS)	
3.12	Speed and distance measuring device through the water [±]	
3.13	Echo-sounding device*	
3.14	Rudder, propeller indicator	
3.15	Radar reflector*	
3.16	International Code of Signals	
3.17	IAMSAR Manual, Volume III	
3.18	Bridge navigation watch alarm system (BNWAS)	
3.19	Sound signaling devices	
3.20	Day shapes	
3.21	Navigation lights compliant with COLREGs	
3.22	Daylight signalling lamp	

* Alternative means of meeting this requirement are permitted under regulation V/19 of SOLAS. In case of other means they shall be specified.

4. Details of radio facilities

This section is applicable for vessels of less than 300 GT. Vessels of 300 GT and above must hold a Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate (Form R).

Item		Actual provision
4.1	Primary systems	
4.1.1	VHF radio installation	
4.1.2	DSC encoder	
4.1.3	DSC watch receiver	
4.1.4	Radiotelephony	
4.2	MF radio installation	
4.2.1	DSC encoder	
4.2.2	DSC watch receiver	
4.2.3	Radiotelephony	
4.3	MF/HF radio installation	
4.3.1	DSC encoder	
4.3.2	DSC watch receiver	
4.3.3	Radiotelephony	
4.4	Recognized mobile satellite service ship earth station	
4.5	Secondary means of initiating the transmission of ship-to-shore distress alerts	
4.6	Facilities for reception of MSI and search and rescue related information	
4.7	EPIRB	
4.8	Two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus	
4.8.1	Portable two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus	
4.8.2	Two-way VHF radiotelephone apparatus fitted in survival craft	
4.9	Search and rescue locating devices	
4.9.1	Radar search and rescue transponders (radar SART) stowed for rapid placement in survival craft	
4.9.2	Radar search and rescue transponders (radar SART) stowed in survival craft	
4.9.3	AIS search and rescue transmitters (AIS-SART) stowed for rapid placement in survival craft	
4.9.4	AIS search and rescue transmitters (AIS-SART) stowed in survival craft	
4.10 Methods used to ensure availability of radio facilities (regulations IV/ 15.6 and 15.7)		
4.10.1	Duplication of equipment	
4.10.2	Shore-based maintenance	
4.10.3	At-sea maintenance capability	

5. Additional requirements

This section is applicable for vessels between 300 GT and 500 GT

Item		Actual provision
5.1	Emergency Escape Breathing Device	

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that, on the date of issue, this Record was correct in all respects.

Issued at

Place of issue

Date of issue

Signature of Authorised person