



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

CIRCULAR N° AFS 002

International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships

**TO: SHIPOWNERS & SHIPS' OPERATORS & MANAGERS
SURVEYORS TO FLAG STATE ADMINISTRATION
CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES**

APPLICABLE TO: All vessels subject to AFS Convention
ENTRY INTO FORCE: 17th September 2008

Monaco, 04 April 2008.

The AFS Convention will into force on 17th September 2008.

The dates in the AFS Convention cannot be retrospectively applied. Amendments to the Convention will be required upon entry into force. Article 4(2) of the Convention allows the status quo for coatings for a period not exceeding sixty (60) months following the application, unless the IMO MEPC decides that exceptional circumstances exist to warrant earlier implementation of the control.

Non-TBT coatings have been available for a few years and most ships already comply with the requirements of the Convention ahead of its entry into force.

According to IMO Resolution A.948 (23) "Harmonized System of Survey and Certification" and Article 4(2) of the Convention, for St Vincent and the Grenadines ships which do not comply on 17 September 2008, coatings will have to be renewed at next statutory dry-docking after 17th September 2008, but not later than sixty (60) months after the application of the existing coating system, as the Convention stands at this time.

Strict national and regional requirements might be implemented upon entry into force.

All St Vincent and the Grenadines ships should make every reasonable effort to comply by the date of entry into force of the Convention in order to comply with requirements in a timely manner.