



Marine Circular

Marine Circular Nr. 05/ 2023, 07/11/2023

Subject: “Suspension and Cancellation of Registration under the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau – Procedural Framework Requirements”

Scope: The purpose of this Marine Circular is to inform in detail Shipowners / Managers / Operators, Representatives of G-B flagged vessels, Deputy Registrars, Masters, Flag Surveyors, Port State Control Surveyors, and Recognized Organizations, and other interested parties on the “Suspension” and “Cancellation” procedures applied by the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry (G-B I.S.R.).

To: Shipowners / Managers / Operators, Representatives of G-B flagged vessels, Deputy Registrars, Masters, Flag Surveyors, Port State Control Surveyors, and Recognized Organizations.

Applicability: This Marine Circular applies to all G-B I.S.R. registered vessels and their owning / managing companies.

1. Definitions

1.1. Suspension: means the temporary cessation of the certificate of registry and consequently the temporary cessation of the right of the vessel to operate under the G-B I.S.R.

1.2. Cancellation: means the permanent annulling of registration with the G-B I.S.R.;

1.3. Illegal Activities: means the infringement, violation, or engagement in activity in breach of the Code of Operation of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, or any relevant regulations, resolutions, marine circulars, marine notices issued by the G-B I.S.R. or under, any international convention to which the Republic of Guinea-Bissau is a party, including United Nations maritime sanctions related measures.

2. Categorization of infringements leading to “Suspension” and/or “Cancellation” for G-B I.S.R. vessels.

2.1. Vessels registered with the G-B I.S.R. can be suspended and/or canceled among others for the following reasons on a non-exhaustive basis:

- a. Overdue Safety Inspections;
- b. Overdue payment of annual taxes;
- c. Overdue class and statutory surveys
- d. Involvement in various illicit activities;
- e. Detention by a Port State Control of a Regional MoU
- f. Use of false/fraudulent Statutory Certificates, Registration Certificates, STCW Endorsement, and other Certificates;
- g. Non-compliance with maritime related provisions and regulations foreseen by International Conventions ratified by the Republic of Guinea-Bissau;
- h. The occurrence of a serious marine casualty, on an ad-hoc basis;
- i. Non-providence of a Deletion Certificate from the Previous Flag;
- j. Breaching of maritime sanctions provisions, as appropriate.



3. Suspension due to the overdue Annual Safety Inspection

3.1 G-B flagged vessels are normally required to undergo safety inspection on an annual basis, which is generally mandatory for vessels to ensure compliance with IMO international conventions, depending on the concrete Convention applicable for the specific vessel. A period of 3 months from the due date of inspection will be given for the inspection to be carried out. Failure to carry out the inspection within the foreseen specific window period may result in the suspension of the vessel unless adequate reasoning is provided by the Owner. If a vessel fails to carry out an Annual Safety Inspection, the vessel will be suspended and a Notification of Suspension will be issued and sent to the owning and managing company, the Master of the vessel, and the Recognized Organization.

3.2. For the vessel's reinstatement, an Annual Safety Inspection shall be conducted within one week from the issuance of the "Notification of Suspension".

3.3. The existence of valid insurance certificates required as per IMO Conventions (LRIT, BCC, WRC, CLC) and of Valid Statutory Certificates constitutes a binding prerequisite for the reinstatement to take place.

3.4. If the G-B flagged vessel is not reinstated after 30 days from the issuance of the "Notification of Suspension", the vessel will be canceled from the registry. Concerned authorities (MoUs) and parties (owning company, managing company, RO) will be notified in regards to the vessel's cancellation from G-B I.S.R.

4. Suspension due to Overdue Payment of Annual Fees, as applicable.

4.1. The owner of a G-B vessel is expected to pay the prescribed annual tonnage fee amount, as prescribed by the G-B I.S.R relevant provisions. If the owner/manager fails to pay the annual tonnage fee, the General Ships Registrar or the appropriate official who is authorized to act for and on behalf of the General Ships Registrar may suspend or cancel the registration of the vessel, bearing under consideration relevant applicable circumstances.

4.2. To reinstate the vessel, owners/managers must pay the Annual Taxes including potential additional charges imposed for late payment.

4.3. The existence of valid insurance certificates required as per IMO Conventions (LRIT, BCC, WRC, CLC) and of Valid Statutory Certificates is considered a prerequisite for the reinstatement to take place.

4.4. If the G-B flagged vessel is not reinstated after 30 days from the Notification of Suspension, the vessel will be canceled from the registry. A "Notification of Cancellation" will be sent to the Port State Control MoUs, Owing and Managing Company and Recognized Organization.

5. Suspension due to Overdue Annual and Other Surveys for the Issuance of Statutory Certification.

5.1 Various International Conventions prescribe concrete mandatory surveys which may include annual, renewal, special, and intermediate surveys. Relevant surveys are to be carried out within the concrete time frame provided by the competent Recognized Organization.

5.2 The International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau expects on a binding basis that vessels will follow the annuals, renewals, specials, and intermediate surveys as applicable, including the L.S.A (Lifesaving Appliances) and F.F.E (Fixed Firefighting Equipment) Inspections, as well as other surveys, as appropriate. If a G-B I.S.R. flagged vessel is found not in compliance with the surveys and the respective time frames needed to be carried out, she will be immediately suspended from the registry and a "Notification of Suspension" is to be issued and submitted to the Owing & Managing company, Deputy Registrar, and Recognized Organization.

5.3. To reinstate the vessel into the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau the vessel must carry out the overdue inspection, inform this Administration accordingly, and also provide a copy of the re-issued/reinstated



statutory certificates and an updated survey status issued by the Recognized Organization in charge. Furthermore, LRIT, BCC, WRC, and CLC valid certificates be taken into account when applying for reinstatement.

5.4. If the G-B I.S.R. vessel is not reinstated as of 30 days from the Notification of Suspension, the vessel will be Cancelled from the Registry. The “Notification of Cancellation” will be sent to the Port State Control MoUs, Owing and Managing company, Deputy Registrar, and Recognized Organization.

6. Suspension of Vessels due to Illicit Activities, as prescribed by the G-B I.S.R. applicable provisions.

6.1. For a G-B I.S.R. vessel, when her owning/managing company is facing a legal prosecution including a junction or restraining order, shall be suspended with immediate effect, depending on the appropriate consideration of the specific conditions. A “Notification of Suspension” will be issued and sent to the Owner, Managers, Deputy Registrar, Master, Recognized Organization, and Port State Control MoUs.

6.2. The vessel’s owners/managers are provided with 30 days to present a properly informed decision to the legal actions undertaken. Otherwise, the vessel, after the elapse of the 30 days will be canceled with immediate effect, and a “Notification of Cancellation” will be issued and submitted to the Owing/Managing Company, Deputy Registrar, Master, and Recognized Organization.

6.3. G-B flagged vessels that are connected in a sufficiently documented way with various illegal activities, including among others smuggling drugs, human trafficking, illicit wildlife trade, smuggling arms, nonpayment of crew wages, employment of crew younger than the admissible age, placing armed personnel without proper authorization from the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau, trading with Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing will be canceled with immediate effect.

6.4. For the above-mentioned cases, no reinstatement of canceled vessels is foreseen by G-B I.S.R..

7. Suspension of vessels due to PSC Detention in various MoUs.

7.1. G-B ISR flagged vessels that are subject to 1 or more detentions within a 12-month time period may be immediately suspended from the Registry depending on the nature of the deficiencies raised by PSC inspections and the evaluation carried out by the competent Departments of this Administration.

7.2. A “Notification of Suspension” will be issued and sent to the Owing/Managing Company, Deputy Registrar, Master, Recognized Authorization, and all PSC MoUs.

7.3. The owner/manager will be provided with a 30-day time frame for transferring the vessel to another flag and a “Notification of Cancellation” or/and a “Deletion Certificate” will be issued to the vessel confirming that the vessel is being canceled from the Registry.

8. Suspension of a Vessel for using False and/or Fraudulent Registry Certificates, Statutory and/or Seafarer’s Certificates.

8.1 G-B I.S.R flagged vessels found with false and/or fraudulent certificates such as Statutory Certificates, Certificate of Competency, Certificate of Completion of Safety Training, Certificate of Incorporation or Identification information including Passports, National I.D, and Seaman’s Book, will be suspended with immediate effect from the Registry at the discretion of the General Ships Registrar (G.S.R.).

8.2 A “Notification of Suspension” will be issued and submitted to the Owing/Managing Company, Deputy Registrar, Master, and Recognized Organization, noting the false/fraudulent certificate received and any penalty imposed as per applicable G-B I.S.R. provisions. The vessel will have 7 days to provide an official statement from the



owning/managing company, including the replacement of false/fraudulent certificates to examine the possibility of reinstating into the G-B I.S.R.

8.3. Upon the receipt of the reissued certificates and after assessing them to the satisfaction of this Administration, the “Notification of Suspension” may be reversed. A respective Attestation confirming that the Notification of Suspension is revoked will be issued by the G-B I.S.R.

8.4. In case no further information and/or clarification is received within 30 days, the vessel will be canceled from the Registry and a “Notification of Cancellation” is to be issued and submitted to the Owner/Managing Company, Deputy Registrar, Master of the Vessel, Recognized Organization and Port State Control MoUs.

9. Suspension of a Vessel for not Complying with the International Conventions ratified by the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

9.1 Guinea-Bissau is a party to various IMO & ILO International Conventions of key importance. G-B I.S.R vessels are expected to comply with the concrete International Conventions ratified by Guinea-Bissau. The G-B I.S.R Vessels that are found not to comply with the relevant International Conventions will be immediately contacted and informed accordingly. The vessel should demonstrate evidence of compliance within 7 days upon receiving a respective notification by the G-B I.S.R.

9.2. G-B I.S.R vessels that fail to comply within 7 days will be suspended with immediate effect. A “Notification of Suspension” will be issued and sent to the Owner, Deputy Registrar, Managing Company, Master and Recognized Organization.

9.3 In order for vessels to be reinstated into the G-B I.S.R, evidence of compliance with the International Conventions is required as of 30 days from the issuance of the “Notification of Suspension”.

9.4 After the 30 days and in case the vessel has not demonstrated sufficient documented compliance with the provisions of the respective International Conventions regulations, the vessel will be canceled from the Registry with immediate effect and a “Notification of Cancellation” will be issued, and sent to the Owning/Managing Company, Deputy Registrar, Master, and Recognized Organization.

10. Suspension of G-B I.S.R vessels due to a Marine Casualty.

10.1. G-B I.S.R vessels that are involved in a “very serious” and/or “serious” Marine Casualty resulting in environmental pollution, damage to the vessel or other vessel involved, and injury, serious injury or death of a crew or passenger need to provide all the necessary information and foreseen documentary evidence for conducting a Marine Investigation, as prescribed by the G-B I.S.R. relevant provisions.

10.2. Failure to provide 1st information and documentary evidence, 2nd failure to submit the vessel to an inspection prescribed by this Administration and 3rd failure to submit documentary evidence for conducting a marine Casualty Investigation, as appropriate may result in the immediate suspension of the vessel at the discretion of the General Ships Registrar.

10.3. A “Notification of Suspension” will be issued and sent to the Owning and Managing Company, Deputy Registrar, Master, Recognized Organization, and Port State Control.

10.4. The owning/managing company has 7 working days to provide analytical information and documented evidence to allow a full Marine Investigation to have the vessel reinstated. After 7 working days the vessel under investigation will be Cancelled with immediate effect and a “Notification of Cancellation” will be issued and sent to the ship’s owning and managing company, Deputy Registrar, Master, and Recognized Organization.



G-B INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL SHIPS REGISTRY OF GUINEA-BISSAU

11. Suspension for not providing a “Deletion Certificate” from the Previous Flag.

11.1. Vessels registered with the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau shall present the “Deletion Certificate” from the previous Flag Administration to obtain Permanent Registration status with G-B I.S.R. The indicated “Deletion Certificate” is to be presented within 6 months after the date of the provisional registration of the vessel.

11.2. G-B flagged vessels that do not submit the foreseen “Deletion Certificate” from the previous Flag within 6 months from the date of the Provisional Registration, will be suspended and the Registration may be canceled. A “Notification of Cancellation” will be issued and sent to the Owning & /Managing Company, Deputy Registrar, Master, Recognized Organization, and MoU Port State Control authorities.

11.3 In order to reinstate the vessel, a Deletion Certificate from the previous flag shall be presented.

12. Suspension of a Vessel for Violation of Provisions relevant to the G-B I.S.R Maritime Sanctions Policy.

12.1. Any vessel and/or ship-owning and ship-managing company registered with the International Ships Registry of Guinea-Bissau that is identified to have been sanctioned by the U.N., E.U., and U.S. competent bodies for violation of maritime sanctions provisions and contradicting the official G-B I.S.R applicable maritime sanctions policy may be suspended of the G-B I.S.R, at the discretion of the General Ships Registrar.

12.2. G-B flagged vessels that have been canceled by the G-B I.S.R for violating maritime sanctions provisions and rules in principle cannot be reinstated into the registry.

13. Effective Date

13.1. The current Marine Circular has immediate effect as per the day of issuance.

14. Queries

14.1. Any queries on this Marine Circular may be submitted to G-B I.S.R. / Operation Department (E-mail: ops@gbi-lb.org , Tel. : +30 210 4537950, +30 210 4537194)

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar

