



**IMMARBE**

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

## **ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE BUNKERS CONVENTION 2001**

**TO ALL SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND GSI INSPECTORS**

MSN Superseded:  
ISSUE DATE:

N/A  
**October 31, 2008**

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### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. The purpose of this Merchant Shipping Notice is to provide guidelines and directions to owners and operators with vessels registered at IMMARBE for obtaining the Bunkers Convention Certificate as required under the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 which enters into force on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2008.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The Convention provides a liability, compensation and compulsory insurance system for the victims of oil pollution damage caused by spills of bunker oil. The Convention will make the ship-owner liable to pay compensation for pollution damage (including the costs of preventive measures) caused in the territory, including the territorial sea of a State Party, as well as its exclusive economic zone or equivalent area.
- 2.2. When the Convention is in force, ships over 1,000 gross tonnage registered in a State Party to the Convention will be required to carry on board a certificate certifying that the ship has insurance or other financial security, such as the guarantee of a bank or similar financial institution, to cover the liability of the registered owner for pollution damage in an amount equal to the limits of liability under the applicable national or international limitation regime. In all cases, this amount should not exceed an amount calculated in accordance with the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976, as amended.
- 2.3. The Convention will make the shipowner, defined broadly so as to include the owner, registered owner, bareboat charterer, manager and operator of a ship, liable to pay compensation for pollution damage (including the costs of preventative measures) caused in the territory, including the territorial sea of a State Party, as well as in its exclusive economic zone, or if a State Party has not established one, in an equivalent area.

- 2.4. States Party to the Convention (as at September 2008):  
Bahamas, Bulgaria, Cook Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Iceland,  
Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Norway, Poland, Samoa, Sierra  
Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Tonga and the United Kingdom.

### **3. APPLICATION**

- 3.1. The International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution damage will enter into force on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2008.
- 3.2. Registered owners of any sea going vessel and seaborne craft over 1000 gross tonnage, of any type whatsoever, and registered at IMMARBE and entering or leaving a port in the territory of any of State Parties to the Bunkers Convention 2001 above mentioned, will be required to maintain insurance which meets the requirements of the Convention and to obtain a certificate issued any State Party attesting that such insurance is in force.
- 3.3. The Bunkers Certificate must be carried on board at all times.

### **4. APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION**

- 4.1 IMMARBE has come to an agreement with the Cook Islands, whereby the Maritime Cook Islands will issue a Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage to vessels registered at IMMARBE. This procedure will simplify the process for our shipowners and at the same time the relationship between owner and IMMARBE will be maintained ensuring that the Certificate will be issued fully in compliance with the Convention, processed and delivered in a timely manner. The request for this certificate shall be submitted directly to the Maritime Cook Islands at the following address:

Maritime Cook Islands  
Phone: +682 23 848  
Facsimile: +682 23 846

**e-mail:** [bunkers@maritimecookislands.com](mailto:bunkers@maritimecookislands.com)

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

Information regarding the process to be followed, including the application form and payment instructions will be found at their website.

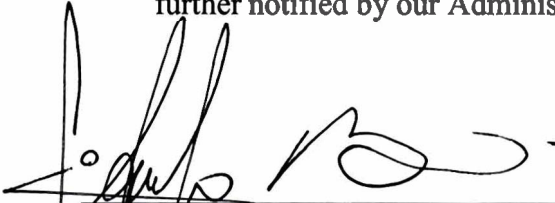
- 4.2 All certificates issued on our behalf by the Maritime Cook Islands Registry will be accepted by other State Parties to the Convention. Belize is in the process of ratifying the Convention and will advise all parties concerned when ratification is effected.

## 5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS/OPERATORS

5.1 Owners/Operators with vessels registered at IMMARBE requiring compliance with the provisions of the Bunkers Convention 2001, should as a matter of **urgency** and prior to the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2008, contact the Maritime Cook Islands to obtain the necessary Certification.

## 6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS NOTICE

6.1 This Merchant Shipping Notice is to be implemented forthwith and shall remain in force until further notified by our Administration.



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Eng. Libardo Brú, BSc, MSc  
Technical Manager  
IMMARBE



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Mrs. Annette Garel  
Head of Registration Dept./Deputy Registrar  
IMMARBE

Any queries related to this Notice should be directed to:

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