



To: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS

Reference: Exemption of unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barges from certain survey and certification requirements.

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INTRODUCTION

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) in its 76th Session adopted in June 2021 the Resolutions MEPC 328(76) and MEPC.330(76) regarding the Amendments to the MARPOL Annexes I and IV and VI. These amendments are concerning the exemption of unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barges from certain survey and certification requirements.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to bring these amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, IV and VI to the attention of Ship Owners, ISM Operators and Recognized Organizations; and to inform of the procedures to be followed for Belize registered vessel when applying these requirements as set out in the Guidelines for Exemption of Unmanned Non-Self-Propelled (UNSP) barges from certain survey and certification requirements under the MAPOL Convention adopted by MEPC.1/Circ.892 on 9 July 2021. These requirements will enter into force on 1 November 2022.

DEFINITION

Unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barge means a barge that:

1. Is not propelled by mechanical means;
2. Carries no oil (as defined in regulation 1.1 of MARPOL Annex I);
3. Has no machinery fitted that may use oil or generate oil residue (sludge);
4. Has no oil fuel tank, lubricating oil tank, oily bilge water holding tank and oil residue (sludge) tank;



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5. Has neither persons nor living animals on board;
6. Is not used for holding sewage during transport (MARPOL Annex IV);
7. Has no arrangements that could produce sewage as define in regulation 1.3 of MARPOL Annex IV; and
8. Has no system, equipment and/or machinery fitted that may generate emissions regulated by MARPOL Annex VI.

CONTENT

After a complete analysis of all requirements and taking into consideration the procedure for granting exemptions included item 3 of the Guidelines for Exemption of Unmanned Non-Self-Propelled (UNSP) barges from certain survey and certification requirements under the MARPOL Convention, the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) decided to delegate these requirements to all authorized Recognized Organization acting on behalf of this Administration.

Recognized Organizations in charge of the issuance of the International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (MARPOL Annex I), the International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (MARPOL Annex IV) and the International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate (MARPOL Annex VI) to a specific vessel shall be capable to:

1. Satisfactory review of the submitted plans (General Arrangement Plan, Capacity Plan) and other relevant information to confirm the condition referred to in regulation 3.7 of MARPOL Annex I, regulation 3.2 of MARPOL Annex IV, or regulation 3.4 of MARPOL Annex VI, as appropriate, are met.
2. Perform a survey of the UNSP barge to confirm if the actual arrangements on board comply with the exemption conditions, as appropriate.

Based on satisfactory result of the survey, certificates for exemption of a UNSP barges from certain survey and certification requirement should be issued by the Recognized Organization acting on behalf of Belize.

The Exemption Certificate shall be in the format required by relevant MARPOL Annex and with a validity of maximum 5 years.

The Exemption Certificate issued to a UNSP barge will be considered as any other Statutory Certificate and therefore shall be submitted via e-mail to IMMARBE's Technical Department to technicalservices@immarbe.com. This submission shall be done in accordance with our Merchant Shipping Notice 0013.

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FEES

Applicable fee will be in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Notice [MSN-0039r1](#).

IMMARBE anticipates [your cooperation and assistance](#).

The Notice was issued in Belize city, Belize 19/8/2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eduardo Simon".

Eng. Eduardo Simon
Technical Manager
IMMARBE



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Annette Garel".

Annette Garel (Mrs.)
Senior Deputy Registrar
IMMARBE