



To: SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS/RECOGNIZED SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS

Reference: Guidance for “Type-Approved Equipment or Systems Acceptance”

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REFERENCE

1. Merchant Ship (Registration) Act, 2010 (No. 22 of 2010).
2. Resolution A. 1070(28) “IMO Instrument Implementation Code (III Code)”, as amended.
3. Resolution A. 1157(32) “Non-exhaustive list of obligations”, as amended.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to provide guidance to Shipowners/ISM Operators, Recognized Organizations, Recognized Security Organizations and General Safety Inspectors concerning compliance with the IMO convention requirements on “**Type-Approvals**” on Belize registered ships.

APPLICATION

This Merchant Marine Notice applies to all Belize registered ships.

DEFINITION

“**Type-Approvals**” means, that the product is guaranteed to meet certain requirements for its type, whatever that may be. The main objective the type-approval is to ensure that all equipment’s that are used onboard ships comply with international standards that protect consumers from products that are hazardous and ensure that their operation do not affect in any way the normal functioning of other equipment’s or the health of people around the operational areas.

“**Technical Specifications or Operating Standards of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)**” means, the performance standards established by the



International Maritime Organization (IMO). Therefore, the Recognized Organizations shall ensure when verifying equipment or systems the type-approval certificate has been issued by other IMO Member States. If new technologies require approval of the IMO Committees, the Recognized Organization shall verify that technology has been already approved.

“The Standards Developed by Specialized International Organizations,” means ISO, IEC standards, and the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) according to their specifications to approve equipment or materials on board their classed ships.

BACKGROUND

International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions (i.e., SOLAS, MARPOL, etc.) have several rules and regulations which prescribe requirement on “Type Approvals.”

Type-Approvals or certificate of conformity is granted to a product that meets a minimum set of regulatory, technical and safety requirements. Generally, type-approval is required before a product is allowed to be sold or installed onboard in a particular country, so the requirements for a given product will vary around the world. Processes and certification known as type-approval are generally called homologation, or some cognate expression. This information is provided in this Merchant Marine Notice.

CONTENT

The equipment will be considered as accepted by the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) in the following two (2) circumstances:

1. Equipment provided in technical specifications or operating standards of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), in which cases they have been developed and approved within the IMO Committees. The Recognized Organization must accept its use for equipment onboard Belize registered ships.
2. Equipment not addressed by technical specifications or operating standards approved by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in which the relevant international instrument simply provide that the equipment must be type-approved, IMMARBE will accept:
 - 2.1. Equipment approved by traditional maritime countries that are members of the IMO, which have national, regional, or international provisions for the approval of certain types of equipment; therefore, the Recognized Organization must accept such approved equipment.
 - 2.2. Equipment approved under the standards developed by specialized International Organizations and recognized by the IMO, such as the unified interpretations of the International Association of Classification Societies for equipment or materials onboard.



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ACTIONS REQUESTED

This Administration would like to urge all Shipowners/ISM Operators, Recognized Organizations, Recognized Security Organizations and General Safety Inspectors to take note of the contents of this Notice and to ensure its provisions are enforced.

IMMARBE anticipates your cooperation and assistance.

The Notice was issued in Belize city, Belize 10 November 2023

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