

## **MARINE SAFETY ADVISORY NO. 01-2023**

**To: ISM OPERATORS OPERATING IN THE BLACK SEA REGION/  
DEPUTY REGISTRARS/ SHIP OWNERS/CHARTERS**

**Subject: COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION TO THE IMO**

**Date: 17 JULY 2023**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Advisory is to inform ISM owners/ship operators operating in the Black Sea Region that the “Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports” agreement has been revoked by the Government of the Russian Federation as per the attached Circular Letter No. 4747.

### **BACKGROUND**

An agreement for the "Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports" was signed on July 22, 2022, in Istanbul by the Republic of Turkey, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

The purpose of the Initiative was to facilitate the safe navigation for the export of grain and related foodstuffs and fertilizers, including ammonia from the Ports of Odesa, Chernomork and Yuzhny (“the Ukrainian ports”).

From the agreement, our Administration would like to quote the following paragraphs:

A. “The Initiative assumes that all parties will provide maximum assurance regarding a safe and secure environment for all vessels engaged in this Initiative.”

C. “The parties will not undertake any attacks against merchant vessels and other civilian vessels and port facilities engaged in this Initiative”.

E. “To prevent any provocations and incidents, the movement of vessels transiting the maritime humanitarian corridor will be monitored by the parties remotely. No military ships, aircrafts, unmanned aerial vehicles may approach the maritime humanitarian corridor closer than a distance agreed by the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC), without the authorization of the JCC, and after consultation with all parties.

F. “Should any suspicious activities, or non-compliance with the rules of this operation or emergencies occur on a vessel transiting the maritime humanitarian corridor, depending on its location, upon the request of a Party to the JCC and under international maritime law, the parties will provide the required assistance to the crew or conduct an inspection against the security guarantees.”

H. “This initiative will remain in effect for 120 days from the date of signature by all parties

and can be extended automatically for the same period, unless one of the parties notifies the other of the intent to terminate, or to modify it.

The Russian Federation in the Circular Letter No. 4747 dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 has informed the International Maritime Organization of the termination of the aforementioned Initiative in accordance with paragraph “H” as listed above.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) hereby advises the vessel’s Management Company, Charterers, Owners, and Crew of the Maritime Industry on the termination of the “Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports” agreement. We recommend ship operators to warn their ships’ crews that there is no guarantee for the safety of navigation of vessels transiting the Ukrainian and Russian waters including the humanitarian maritime corridor and to instruct their ships to exercise extreme caution when entering these areas. We strongly advise our vessels to keep a safe, clear distance and stay as far as practicable from these mentioned areas and if there is no intention to call to ports in these regions then an alternative route would be highly recommended.

Our administration would like to refer to IMMARBE Circular Letter No. ICL-22-001 issued on 28 February 2022, reiterating for all Belize flagged vessels and commercial operators to avoid transiting of the exclusive economic zones of Ukraine and Russia within the Black Sea. Continue to adhere to the rules outlined in Section 3 of the circular for our flagged vessels that are operating in the conflict zone.

Finally, please ensure that the LRIT and AIS are always operational as per [MMN-19-005r1](#) and to ensure the Self-Inspection Program as per [MMN-19-006r3](#), Self-Inspection Checklist as per [Form TDL-018r4 Annex 1](#) are submitted and all Seafarers onboard Contracts or SEAs as per [MMN-20-005](#) are valid prior to entry near these areas. The administration highly recommends our ships to be in their best condition so if intercepted by any Port Authority within this area, there are no valid reasons that would deem these vessels for detailed inspections or further detention that may endanger the safety of your ship by being detained in the area of conflict.

We anticipate your cooperation and assistance in this regard and look forward to receiving confirmation of this email.



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