

MCI Circular 181/2018

To: Owners, Technical Managers, Deputy Registrars, Fleet Managers, Surveyors and all interested parties.

Subject: Notice of Fraudulent Ship Registry and Recognised Organisation

Date: 18th July 2018

Summary:

Maritime Cook Islands (MCI) would like to inform all parties of the following important information;

1. Samoa's ship registry
2. Nauru's ship registry

a. Samoa

The Government of Samoa (Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure) on the 13th April 2017 announced to the Secretary General of IMO that it had officially notified the Recognised Organisation (RO), Ascent Navals Company in Thailand that they had cancelled their authorisation in February 2017.

This was a result of numerous requests received by the Administration seeking Samoa's authentication regarding a number of STCW Certificates as well as Vessel Safety Certificates issued by this RO.

The Government of Samoa officially confirms that no organisation has been authorised by Samoan Maritime Administration as an RO.

See [Circular Letter No. 3854 – Communication from the Government of Samoa.](#)

b. Nauru

The Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade from the Republic of Nauru on the 25th April 2018 has announced to the Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Division of IMO that the Nauru Maritime Administration – International Ship Registry based in Stockholm, Sweden is a fraudulent Registry.

The Republic of Nauru has only recently appointed National Project Limited (NPL) operating out of Singapore, as the Nauru Foreign Vessel Administrator.

See [Circular Letter No. 3855 – Communication from the Government of the Republic of Nauru.](#)

If you have any queries, please contact the Registrar of Ships Moeroa Matheson on fleet@maritimecookislands.com

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Circular Letter No.3854
20 June 2018

To: All IMO Member States
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Samoa**

On 6 June 2018, the Government of Samoa sent the attached communication with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

Tel : (685) 21 611
Fax : (685) 21990
Private Bag, MWTI
Website: www.mwti.gov.ws
Level 4, TATTE Building, SOGI



Please, address all Correspondence to
the Secretary for Transport/ Chief
Executive Officer

File Ref:

GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

06 June 2018

Secretary General
The Secretariat
International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

Dear Secretary General,

SAMOA OPERATES A CLOSED REGISTRY
ASCENT NAVALS IS NOT AUTHORISED AS AN R.O. FOR SAMOA

The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Works, Transport & Infrastructure wishes to commend the hard work and great contribution the IMO Auditors has done for Samoa Maritime Administration during the IMSAS which was carried out from 26th May to 4th June 2018.

Further, this is to confirm that Samoa continues to operate a closed registry completely without recognised organizations (ROs) as all related activities pertaining to registry is done by the Ministry of Works, Transport & Infrastructure. As such, currently Samoa has not authorised Ascent Navals or any other company to be its R.O.

However, the Samoan Government had previously authorised Ascent Navals to be its R.O. for a short period from March 2016 to February 2017. The authorisation was revoked in February 2017 and a copy of the revocation letter sent to Ascent Navals is attached. The Government of Samoa had informed your Organisation of this revocation in April 2017 and a copy of this letter is attached. Therefore, any registration of vessels or certification of seafarers by Ascent Navals since 3 February 2017, were not authorised by the Samoan Government and are not valid and should be treated as null and void.

The only vessels that are currently registered by the Samoan Government through this Ministry are listed in Attachment A. These are the only vessels which were authorised by this administration to be registered and fly the Samoan flag. Any other vessels claiming to be registered under the Samoan Register of Vessels and are flying the Samoan flag are illegal and should be treated as null and void.

In addition, we have also prepared a second list which is in Attachment B identifying illegal registered vessels which the Ministry has able to collect from various sources.

On behalf of the Government of Samoa, we beseech you to share this important information within the Organisation and on all your websites to inform all other maritime authorities, vessel owners and seafarers of the illegal operation conducted by Ascent Navals.

Hope this information will provide exact data to the IMODOCs and particularly for awareness of the organisation and its member countries.

Yours sincerely



Su'a Afamasaga Poumulinuku Onesemo

SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

encl:



Tel: (685) 21 611
Fax: (685) 21990
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Please, address all Correspondence to
the Secretary for Transport/ Chief
Executive Officer

File Ref:

Posted -
21/02/17

GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

3 February 2017

The Director
Ascent Navals
Thailand

Dear Capt. Sharma,

REVOKING OF AUTHORIZATION AS A RECOGNISED ORGANISATION

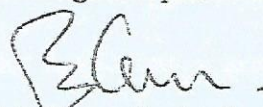
The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (Ministry) have received enquiries from some maritime Administrations seeking authenticity of seamen books and certificates issued by your Agency. The Ministry's position and authorization given to Ascent Navals is limited to inspections and audit of vessels for the Samoa vessel registry purposes.

It appears there is a miscommunication between the Ministry and your organization regarding the authorized services and we are conducting an investigations to ensure we are clear from any illegal activities.

Therefore in protection of our Maritime Administration, and in responding to the enquiries of this matter, We wishes to inform your company that our Authorization granted to Ascent Navals as Registered Organization in March 2016 has been revoked.

For protection from any further illegal activities, please provide the list off all certifications that you have issued, and with confirmation of cancellation of those certificates. Please send us the list and confirmation no later than COB on Friday 24th February 2017.

For any further queries or any information to assist the Ministry with its investigation please contact the undersigned by email pou.onesemo@mwti.gov.ws


Su'a Poumulinuku Onesemo

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT

enclosed: Copy of an Illegal Certificate issued by Ascent Navals

Tel : (685) 21 611
Fax : (685) 21990
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Website: www.mwfi.gov.ws
Level 4, TATTE Building, SOGI



Please, address all Correspondence
to the Secretary for Transport/ Chief
Executive Officer

File Ref:

GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

13th April 2017

Secretary General
The Secretariat
International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

Dear Secretary General

REVOKING OF AUTHORISATION AS A RECOGNISED ORGANISATION

The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure expresses its gratitude to the organisation for your continuous support to the Government of Samoa through maritime technical and administrative assistance.

With this letter, I wish to clarify and make an official notification concerning the above subject matter. In February this year, we issued a letter to the Ascent Navals Company in Thailand regarding the cancellation of authorisation as a recognised organisation for Samoa Maritime Administration. This was a result of series of requests from the Administration seeking Samoa's authentication with a number of STCW certificates and vessels safety certificates issued by this company without our verification and endorsement of such.

Since then, the Ministry continues to receive requests for confirmation of certificates issued by other recognised organisations including the said company. In this regard, I hereby submit this letter as an official confirmation to the organisation that neither Ascent Navals nor any other organisation has been authorised by Samoa Maritime Administration as an RO.

It is hoped that this information would be of assistance in understanding this matter further and treated as a formal communication not only to the organisation but all other Maritime Administrations, Port State Control Officers and other relevant parties.

Yours Sincerely,

Afamasaga Sua, Poumulinuku Onesemo

SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Cc: Hon. Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure
Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (noumea@mfat.gov.ws)
Attorney General (attorney.general@ag.gov.ws)
Hon. Fatumanava Pao Luteru (samoaembassy@skynet.be)
Tokyo MOU Secretariat (secretariat@tokyo_mou.org)
General Manager, Samoa Shipping Corporation (willie@samoashipping.com)
General Manager, Samoa Shipping Services (ststoaleapai@sssltd.ws)
Ascent Navals, Thailand

ATTACHMENT A: REGISTERED VESSELS UNDER SAMOA REGISTRY OF SHIPS 2018

No	VESSEL NAME	OWNER/OPERATOR	IMO NUMBER
CARGO & PASSENGER VESSELS			
01	MV Lady Naomi	Samoa Shipping Corporation	9195107
02	MV Samoa Express	Samoa Shipping Corporation	8897021
03	MV Fotu o Samoa II	Samoa Shipping Corporation	9220756
04	MV Lady Samoa III	Samoa Shipping Corporation	9492268
05	MV Pacific Express	Samoa Shipping Corporation	9050694
06	MV SSC Fasefulu	Samoa Shipping Corporation	9684483
SPECIAL PURPOSE VESSELS			
07	Samoa PB Nafanua	Ministry of Police	N/A
08	Malu o le Malo 3	Ministry of Police	N/A
09	Malu o le Malo 4	Ministry of Police	N/A
10	Tug Boat Atafa	Samoa Ports Authority	9247170
11	Tug Boat Tafola	Samoa Ports Authority	-
12	Aqua	Aqua Samoa	N/A
13	Gaualofa	Samoa Voyaging Society	N/A
14	Tamaitai	Pure Ocean	N/A
FISHING VESSELS MORE THAN 15 METRES IN LENGTH			
15	Violomanu	Apia Export Fish Packers	NA
16	Jessica	Apia Export Fish Packers	NA
17	Aquila	Apia Export Fish Packers	NA
18	Samoan Girl	Apia Export Fish Packers	NA
19	Island of Pukapuka	Apia Export Fish Packers	NA
20	Teravakai	Apia Export Fish Packers	NA
21	Maggie Rose	Apia Export Fish Packers	NA
22	FV Moji	Trade Winds Fish Company	NA
23	Melinda	Trade Winds Fish Company	NA
24	Tokalani	Trade Winds Fish Company	NA
25	Courier De Bois II	Tautai Fishing Ltd	NA

ATTACHMENT B: VESSELS UNDER SAMOA ILLEGALLY REGISTERED BY UNAUTHORISED ENTITY

No's	NAME OF VESSEL	IMO NUMBER	OFFICIAL NUMBER	COUNTRY	PORT OF REGISTRY	GROSS TONNAGE	YEAR BUILT	ISSUE DATE	EXPIRY DATE
01	VERACRUZ	7508300	223182008	BELIZE	APIA	3755	1977	27 April 2018	27 October 2018
02	ARCHIMEDES	7610426	223173001	BELIZE	APIA	5955	1979	13 December 2017	13 July 2019
03	STAR SKN-151	8136300	223182007	BELIZE	APIA	4378	1983	05 March 2018	05 September 2018
04	GALILEO	8721088	223183009	BELIZE	APIA	6232.71	1984	27 April 2018	27 October 2018
05	FRIO SEVEN	8215936	223182010	BELIZE	APIA	3960	1983	07 May 2018	07 November 2018
06	DZINTARZEME	8326266	223182005	BELIZE	APIA	1898	1983	06 February 2018	06 July 2018
07	DZINTARS	8606680	223182004	BELIZE	APIA	1895	1986	25 January 2018	25 June 2018
08	DZINTARKRASTS	8421951	223182006	BELIZE	APIA			06 February 2018	06 July 2018
09	DZINTARJURA	8107050	223172002	BELIZE	APIA			04 December 2017	04 July 2018
10	ANDROMENDA	7614666	-	-	TANZANIA	1590	1979	-	-
11	A3M	8311053	-	-	-	4080	1985	-	-
12	CAPITAINE QUIROS	9210713	-	-	SINGAPORE	7091	2001	-	-
13	MARAYA	7514517	-	-	APIA	640	1976	-	-
14	MARIN	7516694	-	-	-	1770	1979	-	-
15	MILDER	8783945	-	-	-	980	2004	-	-
16	NS ANGELA	9071076	-	-	PANAMA	3804	1995	-	-
17	NS HELSE	9008586	-	-	PANAMA	1582	1992	-	-
19	NS MERMAID	8504181	-	-	SIERRA LEONE	1856	1985	-	-

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Circular Letter No.3855
20 June 2018

To: All IMO Member States
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Nauru**

On 29 May 2018, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations sent the attached communication with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations

NV 18-21

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organisation Office of Legal Affairs, and has the honour to forward herewith the letter of Mr. Michael Aroi Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade addressed to the Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Division for further transmission to its destination.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Maritime Organisation Office of Legal Affairs to the United Nations the highest assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, 29th May 2018

International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM



Republic of Nauru

25 April 2018

The Director Legal Affairs and External Relations Division
International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Director

'NAURU MARITIME ADMINISTRATION – INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY'

I write in reference to the above subject matter.

We have recently been made aware of the existence of a ship registry using our country's name, flag and emblem. This is a matter of grave concern to the Republic of Nauru given that until one week ago, we had never heard of or known of the existence of the above mentioned.

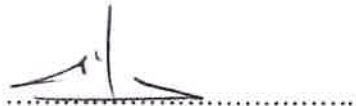
Please be advised that the above mentioned *'Nauru Maritime Administration – International Ship Registry'* based in Stockholm, Sweden was never approved or appointed by the Republic of Nauru to operate the Republic's ship registry. This entity was never authorised to use the Republic's national emblem, national flag and name to register ships.

The Republic has only recently appointed National Project Limited ('NPL'), operating out of Singapore, as the Nauru Foreign Vessel Administrator. We are currently in the process of establishing our ship registry with NPL at the helm.

We accordingly request that this information be disseminated to relevant parties and partners to ensure that the NPL is recognised as the Nauru Foreign Vessel Administrator to administer the Republic's ship registry.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned should you require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Michael Aroi
Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade