

Circular 98 / 2015**To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties****Subject: The Nairobi Wreck Removal Convention****Date: 26 February 2015****Summary****Nairobi International Convention on removal of Wrecks, 2007**

The Cook Islands has acceded to the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007 which will enter into force on the 14th April 2015.

Registered owners of ships 300GT and above will need insurance to meet the requirements of the Convention.

The Convention provides a strict liability, compensation and compulsory insurance regime for member States affected by wrecked and sunken vessels. Under the Convention, the registered owner of a wrecked ship is liable for locating, marking and removing a wreck deemed to be a hazard in a State's Convention area.

The Convention area is deemed to be the EEZ of the Member State and in some cases, States have opted to extend the convention area to include their territorial sea.

In the event of a wreck, the owners' liability under Convention shall not exceed the limits calculated in accordance with the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims 1976 (LLMC 1976), as amended. A Blue Card issued by a Cook Islands Approved P&I Insurer (a list of approved P&I Insurers can be found at <http://maritimecookislands.com/index.php/approved-pai-clubs?phpMyAdmin=468c4e449b59t7643f2c9>), which can be verified, will be evidence of insurance cover being in place and will be used as the basis for the Convention Certificate issuance by a State party. The Convention certificate must be carried on board at all times.

Vessels registered in a State, which is not party to the Convention, but which perform voyages to countries that are Parties should obtain a certificate from a State Party. Cook Islands is a State Party and is prepared to issue certificates to owners of vessels registered in States who are not party to the Convention.

What vessel types need to apply?

All ships of 300GT and greater, meaning a seagoing vessel of any type whatsoever and includes hydrofoil boats, private and commercial yachts, fishing vessels, barges, tugs, air-cushion vehicles,

submersibles, floating craft and floating platforms, **except** when such platforms are on location engaged in the exploration, exploitation or production of seabed mineral resources.

How do I apply?

If your vessel/s is associated with a Cook Islands Deputy Registrar, the DR will contact you with their unique link which you should use to get to the application page. If your vessel is not associated with a DR, go to <https://secure.maritimecookislands.com/wreck/application.php> and follow instructions.

FAQ

For frequently asked questions, please click on the following link <http://www.maritimecookislands.com/applying-for-nwrc-certificates.html>

Maritime Cook Islands Head Office (UTC/GMT – 10 hours)

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm. MCI will ensure that during the rush leading up to the “coming into force” date there is sufficient staff working sufficient hours to cover the work required.

For all wreck removal convention enquiries, please contact Ms Katrina Brown wrecks@maritimecookislands.com. Alternatively you may contact Maritime Cook Islands Head Office at Phone: +682 23848 Fax: +682 23846

For any payment queries, please contact accounts@maritimecookislands.com