



## ZANZIBAR MARITIME AUTHORITY

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### Circular No. FSI/03/2026

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**To: Ship Owners/ Operators, Masters, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Agents, Port State Control Authorities, PSC MOU's and Other Interested Parties of Tanzania Zanzibar Registered Vessels.**

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**Subject:** Actions required following Port State Control (PSC) Inspections and Detentions on Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of Shipping (TZIRS) Registered Vessels.

**Purpose:** This Circular consolidates and harmonizes the requirements governing actions to be taken, following a Port State Control (PSC) inspection or PSC detention involving a TZIRS registered vessels. The objective is to strengthen safety performance, ensure consistent actions by Recognized Organizations (ROs), and reduce detention rates across all major Port State Control Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs).

**Scope and Applicability:** This Circular applies to all vessels registered under TZIRS subject to Port State Control Inspections, all Recognized Organizations, Shipowners, Managers and Operators.

**Date: 3 February 2026**

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### 1. Legal basis and oversight

Pursuant to the mandate conferred by the Maritime Transport Act No. 5 of 2006 and the Zanzibar Maritime Authority Act No. 3 of 2009, the Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA) and the Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of



Shipping (TZIRS) are entrusted to oversee matters of Maritime Safety and Security and the proper enforcing and harmonization of standards of Tanzania Zanzibar ships registered under Maritime Transport Act No. 5 of 2006 related to International Conventions to which the United Republic of Tanzania is a party.

## **2. Continuous Compliance Obligation**

The Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA) and Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of Shipping (TZIRS) requires that vessels registered under the Tanzania Zanzibar Flag always remain in continuous compliance with all applicable National and International Regulations.

## **3. Immediate Actions Following a Port State Control (PSC) Detention**

Upon detention of a TZIRS registered vessel, the Owner, Operator and the Recognized Organization shall immediately notify TZIRS technical department ([technical@zma.go.tz](mailto:technical@zma.go.tz)) to allow the Administration to evaluate the case and determine any additional actions required.

## **4. Administrative Actions Based on Detention History**

### **4.1. First Detention**

- Mandatory attendance of the Recognized Organization (RO) at the port of detention.
- A Special Flag State Inspection (FSI) may be required within two (2) months.
- Issuance of a formal warning to all relevant parties.

### **4.2. Second Detention (within thirty-six (36) months)**

- Mandatory attendance of the Recognized Organization at the detention port.
- An Additional ISM Audit may be required to the Safety Management System of the Management Company (DOC) and/or the vessel (SMC).



- A Special Flag State Inspection (FSI) may be required within two (2) months.
- Issuance of a formal warning to all relevant parties.

#### **4.3. Third Detention (within twenty-four (24) months)**

- Issuance of a notice of intention to cancel the vessel's registration. The Owner shall apply for deletion within one (1) month.
- Failure to process deletion within the prescribed period will result in cancellation ex officio.
- The relevant Port State Control (PSC) MoU Secretariat shall be notified.

*If attendance by the RO is not possible at the detention port, prior Authorization from TZIRS is required to attend the vessel at the next port of call.*

### **5. Reporting and Rectification of Deficiencies**

All deficiencies identified during a Port State Control (PSC) inspection, *regardless if the PSC inspection resulted in a detention or not*, shall be communicated to the TZIRS Technical Department ([technical@zma.go.tz](mailto:technical@zma.go.tz)) and shall include the following documentation:

- PSC Inspection Report (Forms A and B);
- List of deficiencies with corrective actions and proposed rectification dates, where rectification is not possible at the port of inspection;
- Preventive Action Report describing measures to avoid recurrence of similar deficiencies;
- Photographic evidence demonstrating rectification of each deficiency.

In the event of deficiencies leading to the detention of the vessel, the above requirements must be accompanied with a General Examination Report issued by the Recognized Organization after its attendance onboard in compliance



with Section 4 of this Circular above. This General Examination Report must contain details on the status and condition of the vessel and of all the deficiencies imposed, including photographs of the condition of the vessel and the deficiencies.

## **6. Responsibilities of Owners, Managers and Agents**

Owners, Managers and Agents are responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of this Circular and those imposed by the Recognized Organization, and for presenting the vessel for Special Flag State Inspections when required.

## **7. Purpose of Enforcement Measures**

The enforcement measures established under this Circular are intended to reduce PSC detentions, enhance Safety of Life at Sea, protect the Marine Environment, ensure Compliance with applicable IMO Instruments, and improve the International reputation and PSC performance of the TZIRS fleet.

## **8. Entry into force**

This Circular enters into force on **3 February 2026.**

***For additional enquiries on this circular, please contact to:***

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