



ZANZIBAR MARITIME AUTHORITY

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Circular No. FSI/001/2026

To: Ship Owners/ Operators, Masters, Recognized Organizations (RO), Agents, Protection and Indemnity Clubs, Marine Insurers, Port State Control, PSC MOU's And Other Interested Parties of Tanzania Zanzibar Registered Vessels

Subject: Mandatory Insurance and Financial Security requirements for vessels registered under the Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of Shipping (TZIRS).

Purpose: To ensure that all vessels registered under TZIRS are compliant with applicable International Conventions (Athens, Bunker, CLC, MLC, 2006 and Nairobi), concerning financial security and always maintain valid compulsory insurance and/or financial security.

Scope and Applicability: This Circular applies to all Tanzania Zanzibar Flag vessels engaged in International voyages.

Date: 27th January 2026

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 and TZIRS are entrusted to oversee matters of maritime safety and security and the proper enforcing and harmonization of standards of Zanzibar Tanzanian ships and 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 and TZIRS require that vessels registered under the Tanzania Zanzibar Flag always remain in continuous compliance with all applicable national and international regulations.

3. Background

- a) **Athens Convention (Passengers & Luggage):** Establishes carrier liability for passenger injury/loss during carriage when due to the carrier's fault or neglect.
- b) **Bunker Convention (Bunker Oil Pollution):** Ensures prompt and effective compensation for pollution damage from fuel (bunkers) carried on ships.
- c) **CLC Convention (Oil Pollution Damage):** Guarantees compensation for oil-pollution damage from maritime casualties by requiring ships to keep insurance/financial security equal to the owner's liability per incident.
- d) **MLC, 2006 (as amended):** Sets rights and minimum standards for seafarers. Amendments require financial security for (i) abandonment (Reg 2.5) and (ii) death/long-term disability from occupational causes (Reg 4.2).
- e) **Nairobi Wreck Removal Convention:** Gives coastal States legal basis to remove wrecks posing navigational/environmental hazards, including prevention/mitigation for objects lost at sea (e.g., containers).

4. Continuous validity of cover

In order to safeguard the welfare and livelihood of seafarers serving on board TZIRS vessels and to protect the marine environment in which such vessels operate, all required insurance policies and/or financial security instruments must remain valid and continuously in force for the entire period the vessel is registered under the Tanzania Zanzibar Flag.

5. Submission Requirements (prior to issuance/renewal)

All Tanzanian registered vessels shall provide valid evidence of insurance and/or financial security issued by a duly approved insurer/P&I Club to the Administration **during the application of:**

- a) Single Voyage, Provisional, Permanent, Special, and Bareboat Charter registrations; and**
- b) The renewal of the Minimum Safe Manning Document/Certificate and the Radio Station License.**

6. Minimum required insurance/financial security evidence

The following evidence shall be submitted, as applicable:

- a) Seafarer MLC financial security (Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended).** All ships of 500 GT and above:
 - a. Abandonment of Seafarers: MLC Regulation 2.5 / Standard A2.5.2; and**
 - b. Contractual claims (death/long-term disability): MLC Regulation 4.2 / Standard A4.2.1.**
- b) Bunker Oil Pollution Liability (Bunkers Convention, 2001).** All ships of 1,000 GT and above.
- c) Wreck removal liability (Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007).** All ships of 300 GT and above.
- d) Oil tanker cargo pollution liability (CLC 1992), where applicable.** All Ships carrying more than 2,000 tons of oil in bulk as cargo.
- e) Passenger liability (Athens 2002 / EU Passenger Liability Regime), where applicable.**

7. Action Requested

a) Existing Vessels

All existing Shipowners and Ship managers shall submit valid copies of the above insurance/financial security documentation no later than **27th February 2026**. Documentation shall be submitted to: registration@zma.go.tz.

b) Owner/manager notification obligation

Shipowners and/or Ship managers shall immediately inform the Administration of any change of insurer/P&I Club, amendment, non-renewal, suspension, or cancellation affecting any of the required insurance/financial security instruments listed in Section 6.

c) Insurer/P&I Club notification obligation

P&I Clubs and insurance companies providing cover for Tanzania Zanzibar registered vessels shall notify the Administration **immediately** if any required policy/financial security issued in respect of a Tanzania Zanzibar Flag vessel is cancelled, suspended, or allowed to lapse.

d) Recognized Organizations

All authorized Recognized Organizations acting on behalf of the Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA) or Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of Ships (ZMA) shall review all financial security certificates during all mandatory surveys. The Administration must be notified **immediately** if any insurance certificate is found and confirmed to be cancelled, suspended or invalid.

8. Approved insurers/P&I Clubs

Reference is made to Circular No. FSI/06/2023 dated 06 September 2023 for the list of approved insurance companies/P&I Clubs.

9. Applications for approval and acceptance

P&I Clubs and insurance companies not listed in Circular No. FSI/06/2023 and wishing to insure Tanzania Zanzibar registered vessels are requested to submit a formal application for approval to: registration@zma.go.tz. Blue Cards, Insurance and/or financial security issued by non-approved insurers/P&I Clubs will not be accepted.

10. Non-compliance

Vessels that do not maintain valid required insurance and/or financial security by an approved Insurer or P&I Club may be subject to immediate registry restrictions, including inter-alia restrictions from sailing, suspension or revocation of the vessel's certification, etc. until valid insurance or financial security certificates are provided to the satisfaction of the Administration.

11. Entry into force

This Circular enters into force on **27th January, 2026.**

For additional enquiries on this circular, please contact to:

Director General and the Registrar of
Ships Zanzibar Maritime Authority

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