



ZANZIBAR MARITIME AUTHORITY

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Circular No. FSI/07/2026

To: Ship Owners / Operators, Masters, Recognized Organizations (RO), Recognized Security Organizations (RSO), Agents, and Other Interested Parties of Tanzania Zanzibar Registered Vessels

Subject: TZIRS Oversight and Audit Programme for Recognized Organizations (ROs) and Recognized Security Organizations (RSOs).

Purpose: This Circular informs all Recognized Organizations (ROs) and Recognized Security Organizations (RSOs) authorized by TZIRS of the implementation of the TZIRS Oversight and Audit Programme, and sets out their obligations to comply with and facilitate such programme, including the financial responsibilities arising therefrom.

Scope and Applicability: This Circular applies to all ROs and RSOs authorized or seeking authorization to perform statutory survey and certification services on behalf of TZIRS.

Date: 23 June 2026

1. Legal basis and oversight

Pursuant to the Maritime Transport Act No. 5 of 2006, the Zanzibar Maritime Authority Act No. 3 of 2009, and in accordance with Part 3 of the Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code) as adopted by IMO Resolutions MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65), TZIRS is required to establish and maintain an effective Oversight Programme for the systematic monitoring and supervision of all authorized ROs and RSOs. This Programme has been established and is implemented in accordance with Procedure for Auditing of Recognized Organizations and Guidelines for RO/RSO Oversight and Audit Programme.

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.



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3. The TZIRS Oversight and Audit Programme

The TZIRS Oversight and Audit Programme is in force and comprises the following activities, carried out by the TZIRS Technical Department:

- Periodic in-situ audits of the RO/RSO's Quality Management System (QMS) and statutory services processes, conducted against the requirements of RO Code Part 2 using mandatory TZIRS audit forms.
- Ongoing monitoring of PSC detention rates, deficiency records, and casualty statistics attributable to each authorized RO/RSO.
- Review of QMS certification validity, mandatory reporting submissions, and corrective action closure records.
- Annual review of the Oversight Programme and performance evaluation of each authorized RO/RSO, the results of which shall inform decisions on continued authorization.
- A minimum of five (5) audits per year shall be conducted across the authorized RO/RSO fleet. Audits may be of the following types: Initial Audit, Follow-Up Audit, or Re-Audit, as determined by TZIRS in accordance with Procedure for Auditing of Recognized Organizations.

4. Obligations of Recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations

All ROs and RSOs authorized by TZIRS are required to fully cooperate with and facilitate the TZIRS Oversight and Audit Programme. This obligation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Grant TZIRS auditors full and unrestricted access to their premises, personnel, documentation, records, and processes for the purpose of conducting audits and oversight activities.
- Provide timely and complete responses to all audit findings, including the submission of root cause analyses and corrective action plans within the deadlines established by the Technical Department Officer.
- Submit all mandatory reports and statistics required by TZIRS under the Authorization Agreement and the RO Code, including PSC data, casualty statistics, and QMS certification updates.
- Maintain a valid ISO 9001 (or equivalent) Quality Management System certification throughout the duration of the authorization and provide TZIRS with evidence of its continued validity.



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- Immediately notify TZIRS of any matter that may affect compliance with the RO Code or the Authorization Agreement, including loss of QMS certification, significant organizational changes, or PSC detentions involving TZIRS-flagged vessels.
- Demonstrate, upon request and as part of any audit or oversight activity conducted by TZIRS, the operational capability to issue, transmit, and verify statutory certificates in electronic format in accordance with the *Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates* (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2) and any subsequent joint IMO circular superseding or amending those Guidelines. Evidence of such capability, including access credentials to the online verification platform, shall be made available to TZIRS auditors upon request. **ROs and RSOs already holding authorization that have not yet implemented electronic certificate issuance capability shall ensure full compliance with this requirement no later than 31 December 2026, and shall provide TZIRS with a written implementation plan within sixty (60) days of the entry into force of Circular No. FSI/08/2026.**
- Maintain at all times a valid Professional Indemnity (PI) Insurance policy or Errors and Omissions (E&O) Insurance policy in amounts and on terms adequate to cover liabilities arising from the performance of statutory survey and certification functions on behalf of TZIRS, as further specified in the RO/RSO Authorization Agreement. Evidence of such insurance coverage, including the policy certificate and relevant terms, shall be submitted to TZIRS annually and made available for review during any audit or oversight activity.

5. Financial Responsibility

All costs associated with the TZIRS Oversight and Audit Programme, including but not limited to auditor travel, accommodation, subsistence, and any related logistical expenses incurred by TZIRS in connection with the conduct of audits and oversight activities, shall be borne in full by the RO/RSO being audited. This obligation applies to Initial Audits, Follow-Up Audits, and Re-Audits, as well as to any additional oversight activities required as a result of non-conformities, poor PSC performance, or other circumstances warranting enhanced monitoring.

TZIRS shall provide the RO/RSO with an advance estimate of anticipated costs prior to each audit. The RO/RSO shall confirm acceptance of these costs in writing prior to the commencement of the audit.

5. Non-Compliance

Failure to cooperate with the TZIRS Oversight and Audit Programme, including refusal to facilitate access, failure to meet corrective action deadlines, or non-payment of audit-related costs,



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shall be treated as a material breach of the Authorization Agreement and may result in the suspension or termination of the RO/RSO's authorization by TZIRS.

6. Entry into force

This Circular enters into force on **23 June 2026.**

This Circular supersedes and revokes Circular No. FSI/13/2025 on the Oversight of Recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations, which shall cease to have effect upon the entry into force of this Circular. All ROs and RSOs previously subject to Circular No. FSI/13/2025 shall be bound by the provisions of this Circular with immediate effect.

For additional enquiries on this circular, please contact to:

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(MTUMWA S. SANDAL)

DIRECTOR GENERAL & REGISTRAR OF SHIPS

