



## ZANZIBAR MARITIME AUTHORITY

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### Circular No. FSI/08/2026

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

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**Subject:** Authorization of Recognized Organizations (ROs) and Recognized Security Organizations (RSOs) to Act on Behalf of the Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA) & Tanzania Zanzibar International Register of Shipping (TZIRS).

**Purpose:** This Circular informs all interested parties of the authorization process and minimum requirements applicable to Recognized Organizations (ROs) and Recognized Security Organizations (RSOs) seeking or holding authorization to perform statutory survey and certification services on behalf of TZIRS.

**Scope and Applicability:** This Circular applies to all ROs and RSOs authorized or seeking authorization to act on behalf of TZIRS, and to all Ship Owners, Operators, and Managers of Tanzania Zanzibar flagged vessels.

**Date: 23 June 2026**

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### 1. Legal basis and oversight

Pursuant to the Maritime Transport Act No. 5 of 2006 and the Zanzibar Maritime Authority Act No. 3 of 2009, ZMA and TZIRS may delegate statutory survey and certification functions to authorized ROs and RSOs in accordance with IMO Resolutions A.739(18), A.789(19), and the Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code) as adopted by IMO Resolutions MSC.349(92) and MEPC.237(65). All authorizations are granted and managed in accordance with TZIRS Procedure for Approval of Recognized Organizations.

### 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. Authorization Process

Any organization seeking authorization to act on behalf of TZIRS shall submit a complete application to the TZIRS Technical Department ([technical@zma.go.tz](mailto:technical@zma.go.tz) and [technical@tzirs.tz](mailto:technical@tzirs.tz)) in accordance with TZIRS Procedure for Approval of Recognized Organizations. The authorization process comprises the following stages:

- **Application and Document Submission:** the applicant shall provide all documents specified in TZIRS-TD-CL-02, including organizational information, surveyor qualifications and geographic coverage, valid ISO 9001 (or equivalent) QMS certification, PSC performance statistics, and draft statutory certificates in the formats required by applicable international conventions.
- **Probationary Period:** upon satisfactory review, TZIRS shall issue an Interim Letter of Authorization valid for a period not exceeding twelve (12) months, together with the Agreement on Compliance Guidelines. Performance during this period shall be closely monitored by the TZIRS Technical Department.
- **Full Authorization:** upon satisfactory completion of the probationary period, TZIRS shall execute the full-term RO/RSO Authorization Agreement granting continued authorization subject to ongoing compliance and performance obligations.

### 4. Minimum Requirements for Authorization

To be eligible for authorization and to maintain authorization, all ROs and RSOs shall at all times meet the following minimum requirements:

- Hold valid ISO 9001 (or equivalent) Quality Management System (QMS) certification from an accredited independent body compliant with ISO/IEC 17021, in accordance with RO Code Part 2, Section 7.
- Maintain a qualified network of surveyors and auditors with adequate geographical coverage, engaging only personnel duly certified to perform the relevant statutory surveys and certification functions.
- Perform all authorized statutory services in full compliance with applicable international conventions, the RO Code, and TZIRS national requirements.
- Cooperate fully with all TZIRS oversight and auditing activities in accordance with Circular No. FSI/07/2026 – TZIRS Oversight and Audit Programme for ROs/RSOs.



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- Submit to TZIRS all mandatory reports and statistical data as required under the Authorization Agreement, including PSC performance data, casualty statistics, and updated surveyor listings.
- Immediately notify TZIRS of any vessel found unfit to proceed to sea, any PSC detention involving a TZIRS-flagged vessel, any major non-conformity, dangerous occurrence, accident, or structural breakdown aboard a TZIRS-registered vessel.
- Pay the applicable statutory certification fee for each certificate issued on behalf of TZIRS in accordance with the current TZIRS fee schedule.
- Demonstrate the 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. For this purpose, the RO or RSO shall confirm to TZIRS that its electronic certification platform meets the technical and procedural requirements established thereunder, including online verification access. **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.**
- Hold and maintain, at all times throughout the period of authorization, 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.

### 5. Suspension and Termination

TZIRS reserves the right to suspend or terminate the authorization of any RO/RSO that fails to meet the minimum requirements set out in this Circular, breaches the terms of the Authorization



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Agreement, or whose conduct is detrimental to the safety of life at sea, the protection of the marine environment, or the international standing of the TZIRS fleet.

In addition to the foregoing, TZIRS and ZMA reserve the right to suspend or terminate any RO/RSO authorization at any time, at their sole and absolute discretion, where the Administration determines that the continuation of such authorization is no longer in the best interests of TZIRS, the Zanzibar flag, or the effective discharge of the Administration's flag State responsibilities under international law. The exercise of this right shall not require the existence of a specific breach or failure on the part of the RO/RSO. In such cases, TZIRS shall provide the RO/RSO with written notice of termination with a minimum notice period of thirty (30) days, unless circumstances require immediate action in the interest of flag State integrity or maritime safety, in which case termination or suspension may take effect immediately upon written notification.

### 6. Entry into force

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

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

Director General and the Registrar of Ships  
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**DIRECTOR GENERAL & REGISTRAR OF SHIPS**

