ZANZIBAR MARITIME AUTHORITY

01 MALINDI ROAD,
P.O.BOX 401,
71124 URBAN REGION,
ZANZIBAR - TANZANIA

TEL NO: +255 24 2236795
FAX NO: +255 024 2236796
WEBSITE: www.zma.go.tz
EMAIL: info@zma.go.tz

Circular No. FSI/19/2026

To: Registered Owners, ISM Companies, Ship Operators, Masters, Recognized Organizations (ROs), Registration Agents, and Other Interested Parties of Tanzania Zanzibar Registered Vessels

Subject: Mandatory Tanzanian Zanzibar Certificates of Endorsement for Officers Serving on Board Tanzania Zanzibar Registered Vessels.

Purpose: This Circular reiterates the mandatory recognition requirements applicable to officers holding foreign Certificates of Competency (CoCs) and serving on Tanzania Zanzibar International registered vessels.

Scope and Applicability: This Circular applies to Masters and officers serving, or intending to serve, in capacities for which recognition of a foreign certificate is required under Regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention.

Date: 25 NOVEMBER 2026

1. Legal basis and references

Pursuant to the Maritime Transport Act No. 5 of 2006, including Section 6 of Part II (Administration); Sections 444 and 445 of Part XXIII (Indemnity and Powers of Enforcement Officers); and Sections 487 and 488 of Part XXVI (Miscellaneous Provisions).

This Circular is further issued in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended, particularly Regulations I/2 and I/10 and the corresponding provisions of the STCW Code.

2. Mandatory recognition endorsement

Masters, deck officers, engineer officers, electro-technical officers and other officers whose foreign Certificates of Competency are subject to recognition under STCW Regulation I/10 shall hold a valid endorsement attesting recognition issued under the authority of the United Republic of Tanzania, appropriate to their capacity, functions, level and limitations.

A valid foreign CoC, or an endorsement issued by another flag Administration, does not replace the Tanzanian Zanzibar endorsement required for service on a Tanzania Zanzibar International registered vessel, except as expressly permitted by STCW Regulation I/10, paragraph 5.

01 MALINDI ROAD,
P.O.BOX 401,
71124 URBAN REGION,
ZANZIBAR - TANZANIA

TEL NO: +255 24 2236795
FAX NO: +255 024 2236796
WEBSITE: www.zma.go.tz
EMAIL: info@zma.go.tz

3. Temporary service pending recognition (CRA) Confirmation of Receipt of Application

Under STCW Regulation I/10, paragraph 5, an officer may be permitted to serve for a period not exceeding three months while holding an appropriate and valid certificate issued and endorsed by another Party, provided that documentary proof that an application for a Tanzanian Zanzibar endorsement has been submitted to the Administration is readily available.

A (CRA) Confirmation of Receipt of Application is not itself an endorsement. The temporary period must not be treated as an automatic extension or renewed merely by resubmitting an application

4. Responsibilities of owners, operators and Masters

Registered owners, ship operators, ISM Companies, manning agents and Masters shall verify before assignment and throughout service that each relevant officer holds a valid Tanzanian Zanzibar endorsement or satisfies the limited temporary-service conditions described above. They shall monitor expiry dates, submit applications and renewals in a timely manner, and ensure that the required certificates and evidence are available on board for inspection.

5. Mandatory Verification During Onboard Inspections

This requirement shall apply to all inspections carried out by or on behalf of the Administration, including inspections conducted by Recognized Organizations (ROs), and any other inspectors or entities duly authorized by the Administration.

During each inspection, inspectors shall:

1. Verify that all officers required to hold a Tanzanian Zanzibar Certificate of Endorsement possess a valid endorsement appropriate to their assigned rank, capacity and functions.
2. Verify the validity of the underlying Certificate of Competency (CoC) and ensure that the Tanzanian Zanzibar endorsement does not exceed the validity or limitations of the original certificate.
3. Verify compliance with the provisions of STCW Regulation I/10, including the applicable requirements for officers serving temporarily while their endorsement applications are being processed.
4. Report identified non-compliance to TZIRS for evaluation and any necessary corrective or enforcement action.

Recognized Organizations (ROs) acting on behalf of the Administration shall be required to include this verification in their inspection procedures and checklists, regardless of the type of inspection being conducted, within the scope of their authorization.

01 MALINDI ROAD,
P.O.BOX 401,
71124 URBAN REGION,
ZANZIBAR - TANZANIA

TEL NO: +255 24 2236795
FAX NO: +255 024 2236796
WEBSITE: www.zma.go.tz
EMAIL: info@zma.go.tz

6. Non-compliance

Failure to comply may result in recorded deficiencies, directions for corrective action, additional verification or other measures authorized under applicable Tanzanian Zanzibar law. Restrictions on service or sailing shall be considered only where justified by the circumstances and applicable legal authority.

7. Entry into force

This Circular enters into force on the date of issuance and shall remain in force until amended, superseded or withdrawn by the Administration. It shall be read together with Circular No. FSI/13/2026.

For additional enquiries on this Circular, please contact to:

Director General and the Registrar of Ships
Zanzibar Maritime Authority
P.O.BOX 401
Tel +255 24 2236795
Website: www.zma.go.tz
Email: seafarers@tzirs.tz & info@tzirs.tz

(MTUMWA S. SANDAL)
DIRECTOR GENERAL & REGISTRAR OF SHIPS