



MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

NAVAL AGENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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**CIRCULAR LETTER**  
**No. 01-622 from 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2021**

**TO: Recognized Organizations, Owners, operators and Bareboat Charterers of the vessels under Moldova Flag, Legal Representatives of the Owners**

**Subject: Modifications of the national legislation regarding the recognized organizations**

By this letter, the Naval Agency informs you that at the initiative of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, a draft legislative act amending the Code of Commercial Maritime Navigation, was elaborated and voted in both readings on December 9, 2021.

Taking into account the aspiration of the Republic of Moldova for accession to the European Union, as well as the association agreement between the EU and Moldova, the alignment of normative acts with the regulations and directives of the European Union, on 9th of December 2021, the law no. 216 for the amendment of article 7 paragraph 1 and 4 of the Code of Commercial Maritime Navigation of the Republic of Moldova was voted by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and promulgated by the President decree no.273 on December 20, 2021.

The paragraph 1 of article 7 from the mentioned law in new wording states "*The supervision of the technical condition of ships and their classification shall be carried out by the classification societies, recognized by the European Commission and empowered in the manner established by the Government of the Republic of Moldova*".

The paragraph 4 of article 7 from the mentioned law in new wording states "*Monitoring of compliance with international conventions to which the Republic of Moldova is a party, including the requirements of the technical condition of ships, shall be carried out by organizations recognized by the Government of the Republic of Moldova which also have the recognition of the European Commission*".

The law no. 216 for the amendment of Article 7 paragraph 1 and 4 of the Code of Commercial Maritime Navigation enters into force within 6 months on June 21, 2022. Considering that the law is above any normative act and / or agreement concluded between the Naval Agency and the Recognized Organizations, the administration informs you on the following:

1. Starting with June 21, 2022, the recognized organizations that are not found in point 6, lose the right of the recognition from the Government of the Republic of Moldova, lose the rights to survey and certify maritime vessels under the authority of Government, also lose the right to conduct any inspections and annual surveys and any other activity or certification on behalf of the Government. All documents issued, lose their validity on June 21, 2022. If, at the end of the 6-month period, the ship will be in voyage, an extension of 30 calendar days may be granted to finish its voyage under conventional certificates issued by the RO.

2. From the date of the present circular letter, new registrations of maritime ships under the flag of the Republic of Moldova shall take place only with those ships which will be under the supervision, surveyed and certified by a classification society under point 6.

3. Ships provisionally registered and not having completed the permanent procedure shall, within 3 months from the date of this circular letter, to pass under supervision and certification of a classification society referred in point 6.

**4. All maritime vessels registered under the flag of the Republic of Moldova under the supervision of an RO Non-recognized by the European Commission, within 6 months from the date of issuance of this circular letter but not later than 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2022, are obliged to pass under a classification society referred to point 6.**

5. Government Decision no. 1608/2003, which was repealed in 2020, provided the list of organizations recognized by the Government, thus not providing for the obligation to sign an agreement, being delegated all responsibilities for inspections and conventional certification according to IMO conventions to recognized organizations. In the last years, IACS-recognized classification societies have partially operated on the basis of authorizations signed for each ship, specifying the powers delegated to the classification societies in relation to the ship, or on the basis of an agreement signed in accordance with the IMO approved RO Code.

Respectively with the approval of the *government decision no.2 / 2020 from 03.01.2020 on the approval of the Regulation on common norms and standards for organizations with the role of inspection and control of ships of maritime and mixed traffic, as well as for activities in the field of the maritime administrations and the abrogation of the Government Decision no. 1608/2003 on the recognition of international ship classification societies* and its entry into force in 6 months, all classifications societies must be again audited and pass the recognition process, the new authorizations to the classification societies recognized by the European Commission for each ship were no longer issued, these are in force until the ship is deregistered or the audit and continuous recognition procedure is completed with the signing of an agreement according to the national legislation and the RO code approved by the IMO.

Summarizing the above, from the list of classification societies recognized by the European Commission, and decision no.2/2020, the Naval Agency may register ships and extend navigation documents under the flag of the Republic of Moldova only with classification societies that have signed at present an agreement according to the RO code and national legislation.

6. The Naval Agency has signed agreements with the following classification societies recognized by the European Commission:

- 1) **RUSSIAN MARITIME REGISTER OF SHIPPING**
- 2) **POLISH REGISTER OF SHIPPING**
- 3) **KOREAN REGISTER OF SHIPPING**

7. Currently in the process of recognition, approval and signing are ABS and RINA, so at present it is not possible to move to these classification societies until the complete procedure is done by the Government.

8. Ship-owners who fail to move to the supervision of the classification societies specified in point 6, at the expiration of the term, shall lose their right to sail under the flag of the Republic of Moldova.

**The Naval Agency appreciates and thanks the recognized organizations that since 2003-2021 have had a close collaboration and mutual support throughout this period, which resulted in achieving continuity of implementing our common vision for safer, more secure and cleaner maritime sector.**

**Best regards,**

**Director NARM**

**Igor ZAHARIA**