MCI Circular 181/2018

To: Owners, Technical Managers, Deputy Registrars, Fleet Managers, Surveyors and all interested parties.

Subject: Notice of Fraudulent Ship Registry and Recognised Organisation

Date: 18th July 2018

Summary:

Maritime Cook Islands (MCI) would like to inform all parties of the following important information;

1. Samoa’s ship registry
2. Nauru’s ship registry

a. Samoa
The Government of Samoa (Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure) on the 13th April 2017 announced to the Secretary General of IMO that it had officially notified the Recognised Organisation (RO), Ascent Navals Company in Thailand that they had cancelled their authorisation in February 2017.

This was a result of numerous requests received by the Administration seeking Samoa’s authentication regarding a number of STCW Certificates as well as Vessel Safety Certificates issued by this RO.

The Government of Samoa officially confirms that no organisation has been authorised by Samoan Maritime Administration as an RO.


b. Nauru
The Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade from the Republic of Nauru on the 25th April 2018 has announced to the Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Division of IMO that the Nauru Maritime Administration – International Ship Registry based in Stockholm, Sweden is a fraudulent Registry.

The Republic of Nauru has only recently appointed National Project Limited (NPL) operating out of Singapore, as the Nauru Foreign Vessel Administrator.


If you have any queries, please contact the Registrar of Ships Moeroa Matheson on fleet@maritimecookislands.com
Circular Letter No.3854
20 June 2018

To: All IMO Member States
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: Communication from the Government of Samoa

On 6 June 2018, the Government of Samoa sent the attached communication with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.
GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

06 June 2018

Secretary General
The Secretariat
International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

Dear Secretary General,

SAMOA OPERATES A CLOSED REGISTRY
ASCENT NAVALS IS NOT AUTHORISED AS AN R.O. FOR SAMOA

The Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Works, Transport & Infrastructure wishes to commend the hard work and great contribution the IMO Auditors has done for Samoa Maritime Administration during the IMSAS which was carried out from 26th May to 4th June 2018.

Further, this is to confirm that Samoa continues to operate a closed registry completely without recognised organizations (ROs) as all related activities pertaining to registry is done by the Ministry of Works, Transport & Infrastructure. As such, currently Samoa has not authorised Ascent Navals or any other company to be its R.O.

However, the Samoan Government had previously authorised Ascent Navals to be its R.O. for a short period from March 2016 to February 2017. The authorisation was revoked in February 2017 and a copy of the revocation letter sent to Ascent Navals is attached. The Government of Samoa had informed your Organisation of this revocation in April 2017 and a copy of this letter is attached. Therefore, any registration of vessels or certification of seafarers by Ascent Navals since 3 February 2017, were not authorised by the Samoan Government and are not valid and should be treated as null and void.

The only vessels that are currently registered by the Samoan Government through this Ministry are listed in Attachment A. These are the only vessels which were authorised by this administration to be registered and fly the Samoan flag. Any other vessels claiming to be registered under the Samoan Register of Vessels and are flying the Samoan flag are illegal and should be treated as null and void.

In addition, we have also prepared a second list which is in Attachment B identifying illegal registered vessels which the Ministry has able to collect from various sources.

On behalf of the Government of Samoa, we beseech you to share this important information within the Organisation and on all your websites to inform all other maritime authorities, vessel owners and seafarers of the illegal operation conducted by Ascent Navals.
Hope this information will provide exact data to the IMODOCs and particularly for awareness of the organisation and its member countries.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Su’a Afaamasaga Poumulinuku Onesemo  
SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

encl:
3 February 2017

The Director
Ascent Navals
Thailand

Dear Capt. Sharma,

REVOCKING OF AUTHORIZATION AS A RECOGNISED ORGANISATION

The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (Ministry) have received enquiries from some maritime Administrations seeking authenticity of seamen books and certificates issued by your Agency. The Ministry’s position and authorization given to Ascent Navals is limited to inspections and audit of vessels for the Samoa vessel registry purposes.

It appears there is a miscommunication between the Ministry and your organization regarding the authorized services and we are conducting an investigations to ensure we are clear from any illegal activities.

Therefore in protection of our Maritime Administration, and in responding to the enquiries of this matter, We wishes to inform your company that our Authorization granted to Ascent Navals as Registered Organization in March 2016 has been revoked.

For protection from any further illegal activities, please provide the list of all certifications that you have issued, and with confirmation of cancellation of those certificates. Please send us the list and confirmation no later than COB on Friday 24th February 2017.

For any further queries or any information to assist the Ministry with its investigation please contact the undersigned by email pou.onesemo@mwti.gov.ws

Su’a Poumulinuku Onesemo
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT

enclosed: Copy of an Illegal Certificate issued by Ascent Navals
13th April 2017

Secretary General
The Secretariat
International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

Dear Secretary General

REVOKING OF AUTHORISATION AS A RECOGNISED ORGANISATION

The Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure expresses its gratitude to the organisation for your continuous support to the Government of Samoa through maritime technical and administrative assistance.

With this letter, I wish to clarify and make an official notification concerning the above subject matter. In February this year, we issued a letter to the Ascent Navals Company in Thailand regarding the cancellation of authorisation as a recognised organisation for Samoa Maritime Administration. This was a result of series of requests from the Administration seeking Samoa’s authentication with a number of STCW certificates and vessels safety certificates issued by this company without our verification and endorsement of such.

Since then, the Ministry continues to receive requests for confirmation of certificates issued by other recognised organisations including the said company. In this regard, I hereby submit this letter as an official confirmation to the organisation that neither Ascent Navals nor any other organisation has been authorised by Samoa Maritime Administration as an RO.

It is hoped that this information would be of assistance in understanding this matter further and treated as a formal communication not only to the organisation but all other Maritime Administrations, Port State Control Officers and other relevant parties.

Yours Sincerely,

Afastasaga Sua. Poumulinuku Onesemo
SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Cc: Hon. Minister of Works, Transport and Infrastructure
Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (minfaa@mfb.gov.ws)
Attorney General (attorney_general@ag.gov.ws)
Hon. Fatumanava Pao Luteru (samogemba@skynet.hr)
Tokyo MOU Secretariat (secretariat@tokyo.mou.org)
General Manager, Samoa Shipping Corporation (willie@samoashipping.com)
General Manager, Samoa Shipping Services (sstoalecapal@sssltd.ws)
Ascent Navals, Thailand
**ATTACHMENT A: REGISTERED VESSELS UNDER SAMOA REGISTRY OF SHIPS 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>VESSEL NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>MV Lady Naomi</td>
<td>Samoa Shipping Corporation</td>
<td>9195107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>MV Samoa Express</td>
<td>Samoa Shipping Corporation</td>
<td>8897021</td>
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<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>MV Fotu o Samoa II</td>
<td>Samoa Shipping Corporation</td>
<td>9220756</td>
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<td>04</td>
<td>MV Lady Samoa III</td>
<td>Samoa Shipping Corporation</td>
<td>9492268</td>
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<td>05</td>
<td>MV Pacific Express</td>
<td>Samoa Shipping Corporation</td>
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<td>MV SSC Fasefulu</td>
<td>Samoa Shipping Corporation</td>
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**CARGO & PASSENGER VESSELS**

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<td>Samoa PB Nafanua</td>
<td>Ministry of Police</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>08</td>
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<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Malu o le Malo 4</td>
<td>Ministry of Police</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Tug Boat Atafa</td>
<td>Samoa Ports Authority</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Aqua</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Gauaolofa</td>
<td>Samoa Voyaging Society</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Tamaitai</td>
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**SPECIAL PURPOSE VESSELS**

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<td>Apia Export Fish Packers</td>
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<td>Apia Export Fish Packers</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>FV Moji</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Tokalani</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>Tautai Fishing Ltd</td>
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**FISHING VESSELS MORE THAN 15 METRES IN LENGTH**
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<th>YEAR BUILT</th>
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<th>EXPIRY DATE</th>
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</table>
Circular Letter No.3855  
20 June 2018

To: All IMO Member States  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: Communication from the Government of the Republic of Nauru

On 29 May 2018, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations sent the attached communication with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.
The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organisation Office of Legal Affairs, and has the honour to forward herewith the letter of Mr. Michael Aroi Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade addressed to the Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations Division for further transmission to its destination.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Maritime Organisation Office of Legal Affairs to the United Nations the highest assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 29th May 2018

International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM
Republic of Nauru

25 April 2018

The Director Legal Affairs and External Relations Division
International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Director

‘NAURU MARITIME ADMINISTRATION – INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY’

I write in reference to the above subject matter.

We have recently been made aware of the existence of a ship registry using our country’s name, flag and emblem. This is a matter of grave concern to the Republic of Nauru given that until one week ago, we had never heard of or known of the existence of the above mentioned.

Please be advised that the above mentioned ‘Nauru Maritime Administration – International Ship Registry’ based in Stockholm, Sweden was never approved or appointed by the Republic of Nauru to operate the Republic’s ship registry. This entity was never authorised to use the Republic’s national emblem, national flag and name to register ships.

The Republic has only recently appointed National Project Limited (‘NPL’), operating out of Singapore, as the Nauru Foreign Vessel Administrator. We are currently in the process of establishing our ship registry with NPL at the helm.

We accordingly request that this information be disseminated to relevant parties and partners to ensure that the NPL is recognised as the Nauru Foreign Vessel Administrator to administer the Republic’s ship registry.
Please feel free to contact the undersigned should you require clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

..............................

Mr. Michael Aroi
Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade