UNION DES COMORES
Unité – Solidarité – Développement
ADMINISTRATION MARITIME

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To,
Owners/Managers, Masters, Deputy Commissioners,
Classification Societies, Recognized Organizations,
Paris MoU, Abuja MoU, Mediterranean MoU,
Black Seas MoU, USCG, Tokyo MoU, Riyadh MoU,
Caribbean MoU, Indian Ocean MoU,
IMO Member States, All ANAM Departments

SUBJET: **ISSUANCE OF SEAFARER'S IDENTIFICATION AND RECORD BOOK (SIRB)**

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this Circular is to inform all parties concerned that this Administration, as from 01 January 2024, will require issuance of a Seafarer's Identification and Record Book (SIRB) to all seafarers on board Comorian Flagged vessels, of any nationality;

1.2. The SIRB is a seafarer's identity document issued in order to provide the holder with identity papers for travel to or from an assigned vessel and also provides a continuous record of his/her sea service, that contains the Training Certificates, which specify his/hers qualifications.

2. Application

2.1. As of 01 January 2024, it is mandatory for all seafarers, whether they are on the Minimum Safe Manning Certificate or not, to hold a SIRB, also commonly known as a Discharge Book or Seaman's book that has been issued by the National Agency of Maritime Affairs of the Union of Comoros (ANAM) to record their training and sea service;

2.2. Masters, Officers and Ratings who intend to serve on-board any ship flying the flag of Comoros on or after 01 January 2024 shall apply for a SIRB not later than 31 December 2023;

2.3. Masters, Officers and Ratings who begun serving on-board any ship flying the flag of Comoros prior 31 December 2023 shall apply for a SIRB not later than 29 February 2024, following the implementation period of this circular.

3. General

3.1. A Comorian SIRB is not an international identity document;

3.2. Every SIRB is valid for five (5) years. When an SIRB expires, the sea service pages remain valid; therefore, the seafarer should retain possession of all expired SIRBs.

4. Procedure for SIRB Application

4.1. Each application for SIRB should be submitted by the Owners/Managers to the correspondent Deputy Commissioner or ANAM's Head Office;

4.2. Each application for SIRB should be accompanied by clear scanned copies of the following documentation:

- Completed Application Form;
- Valid Medical Fitness certificate;
- Colored passport size photo;
- Valid national ID[1] or Passport;
- Valid Certificate of Competency (COC) – where applicable;
- Valid Certificate of Proficiency (COP) of Watch-keeping – where applicable;
- Employment Letter by the owning/managing company for capacities that do not require COC or COP;
- Valid Basic Safety certificates in accordance with STCW, as amended, Regulation VI/1;
- Valid Ship Security related certificate in accordance with STCW, as amended, Regulation VI/5 or VI/6.
- Valid COPs in accordance with STCW, as amended, requirements, depending on the type of vessel (Tankers, RO-RO Passengers and Passengers) – where applicable.

Maritime Affairs Department

Said Salim
Registrar

[1] Applicable only for seafarers of Comorian nationality, engaged within territorial waters of the Union of Comoros.