

Vanuatu Flag Administration Zero Tolerance for Fraudulent Documentation - Immediate Deregistration

URC25007 | 14 February 2025

Notice to: Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators /

Reference: Vanuatu Flag Circular - "Zero Tolerance for Fraudulent Documentation - Immediate Deregistration"

Dear Owners and Operators of Vanuatu Flagged Vessels,

This circular is prepared by URACOS Classification Society to inform you about a significant circular issued by the Vanuatu Flag, titled "Zero Tolerance for Fraudulent Documentation - Immediate Deregistration".

The Vanuatu Flag, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring integrity and legal compliance in the maritime sector, has initiated a zero-tolerance policy against the use of fraudulent or misleading documentation. The issued circular explicitly states that in the event of fraudulent documentation being detected on Vanuatu flagged vessels, the vessel in question will be immediately deregistered from the Vanuatu Ship Registry.

This measure aims to ensure full compliance of the Vanuatu Flag with international maritime standards and regulations, and to protect the flag's reputation. The use of fraudulent documentation is a serious issue that damages the credibility not only of the Vanuatu Flag but of the entire maritime industry, and it is imperative to combat such activities decisively.

In this regard, it is of utmost importance for all owners and operators of Vanuatu flagged vessels to pay maximum attention to the points outlined below and to take the necessary measures immediately:

Document Authenticity and Validity: Ensure that all documents related to your vessels (vessel registration documents, class certificates, safety certificates, crew competency certificates, etc.) are original, accurate, and valid. Forged documents or documents with any form of alteration are strictly unacceptable.

Document Verification: Conduct regular checks of the documents used on your vessels, and in case of any suspicion, immediately contact the Vanuatu Maritime Administration.

Personnel Awareness: Ensure that your vessel personnel are informed about this new regulation and warned about the consequences of using fraudulent documentation.

The "Immediate Deregistration" sanction to be applied upon detection of fraudulent documentation may lead to serious disruptions in your vessel operations, commercial losses, and legal issues. To avoid such negative consequences, it is in your best interest to meticulously review your document management processes and take all necessary preventative measures.

As URACOS Classification Society, we would like to draw your attention to this important circular from the Vanuatu Flag. For detailed information on document verification processes, classification services, and other related matters, or to submit any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Wishing you due diligence and the continuation of your vessel operations in accordance with international standards,

Sincerely,



Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR)

Circular to Shipowners/Operators

Circular No.12

Date: February 12, 2025

From:

Saade Makhoulf

President and CEO

Vanuatu Logistics and Administrative Services Limited (VLAS)

Sole Administrator of the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR)

Dear Special Agent,

Vanuatu Logistics and Administration Services Ltd. (VLAS) has identified cases where falsified documents have been submitted to our Administration in response to requested compliance checks. This is a serious violation of regulatory integrity and is entirely unacceptable.

We hereby emphasize that VLAS maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward fraudulent documentation. Any vessel or company found engaging in such misconduct will face immediate and irreversible deregistration from our flag. No exceptions will be made.

We urge all shipowners/operators to ensure that only authentic and verifiable documents are submitted to the Administration. Any attempt to manipulate records or provide counterfeit documentation will result in severe consequences, including but not limited to flag withdrawal and legal actions.

This serves as a final and absolute warning. Compliance is not optional.



Saade Makhoulf
President and CEO

Vanuatu Logistics and Administrative Services Limited (VLAS)

Sole Administrator of the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR)