

Vanuatu Flag Administration Circular no:020 and 021

URC25011 | 23 May 2025

Notice to: Ship Owners/ Managers/ Operators / Surveyors / Auditors

Dear Valued Clients,

This circular is to inform you of recent important updates from the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR) that affect the operation of Vanuatu-flagged vessels and communication with the Registry.

1. Procedure for Chartering a Vanuatu-Flagged Vessel to a Foreign Flag

Please be advised of the requirements and procedures to be followed when chartering a Vanuatu-flagged vessel to another flag, as outlined in VISR Circular #020 dated May 21, 2025.

- Prior to any charter, the following must occur:
 - o The Vanuatu International Shipping Registry (VISR) must be notified in writing.
 - o If the vessel is involved in fishing operations, the Vanuatu Department of Fisheries (VFD) must be informed and issue their approval.
- Once the above notifications and approvals are secured, the following documents must be submitted to VISR:
 - o Certified copy of the charter agreement.
 - o Consent from mortgagee(s), if applicable.
 - o Copy of the foreign registry certificate showing the vessel's registration under the other flag.
 - o Addendum to Page 2 of Form A1, including billing details, manager information, and 24-hour emergency contact details.
 - o Proof of payment of applicable fees.

Failure to comply with these requirements or timely notify VISR may result in an administrative fine of USD 3,000 per vessel. All changes, extensions, or terminations of the charter must also be promptly reported to VISR.

2. Change in Correspondence Addressing Protocol

In accordance with recent legislative amendments, there is a change in the correspondence addressing protocol, as detailed in VISR Circular #021 dated May 22, 2025.

Effective immediately, all correspondence must be addressed to one of the following official designations:

- The Maritime Administrator
- Office of the Maritime Administrator
- The Administration

Please refrain from addressing any correspondence directly to "Vanuatu Logistics and Administrative Services Limited (VLAS)" in matters relating to the Registry. This change ensures consistency, transparency, and adherence to the updated legislative and administrative framework.

We urge you to take note of these important changes to ensure continued compliance and smooth operations. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your attention to these matters

Detailed information regarding URACOS circulars, including updates on regulations and guidelines, can be found at <https://uracos.org/circulars>.

Best Regards

UNITED REGISTRATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SERVICES