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Notice to: Shipowners, Operators, Masters, Shipbrokers, Shipyards, Recognised Organisations and Managers and all other parties concerned

1. Purpose

1.1 This Circular serves to inform shipowners, operators, shipbrokers, shipyards, and other maritime stakeholders that the Barbados Maritime Ship Registry (BMSR) welcomes the registration of newbuilding vessels and to set out the applicable requirements and the practical advantages of choosing Barbados as the flag State at the newbuilding stage.

2. Background

2.1 The current international maritime environment presents shipowners and operators with an opportunity to reconsider their flag selection, including during the construction phase of a vessel. BMSR recognises that the newbuilding stage represents the most practical and administratively straightforward point at which to make a flag State decision, as there is no existing registration to close out, no CSR history to manage, and statutory certification and registration processes can be coordinated well in advance of delivery.

2.2 BMSR is an open ship registry operating under the authority of the Government of Barbados, which is an IMO Member State registry committed to full compliance with all applicable international conventions and to maintaining high standards of flag State oversight.

2.3 BMSR adopts a pragmatic and service-oriented approach to vessel registration. BMSR works closely with owners, managers, shipyards, financial institutions and Recognised Organisations (ROs) to facilitate the efficient delivery and entry into service of newbuilding vessels.

3. Advantages of Selecting Barbados at the Newbuilding Stage

3.1 Selecting the Barbados flag during vessel construction provides several operational and administrative advantages, including:

- .1 Early coordination between the owner, shipyard, RO and flag Administration;
- .2 Ability to align Class and statutory certification processes from the construction stage;
- .3 Early preparation and review of registration documentation;
- .4 Reduced risk of delays at delivery attributable to flag administration matters;
- .5 Simplified transition into commercial operation immediately upon delivery;
- .6 Efficient coordination of mortgage registration and financing-related filings;
- .7 Electronic submission and processing of registration documentation across multiple jurisdictions and time zones;
- .8 Avoidance of post-delivery change of flag procedures and associated administrative complications.

3.2 Subject to receipt of satisfactory documentation and statutory certification, provisional registration may normally be completed immediately upon delivery from the shipyard.

4. Eligibility of Newbuilding Vessels

- 4.1 Any new vessel, regardless of type, size or construction location, is eligible for registration under the Barbados flag. As confirmed in BMSR [Bulletin 002 Vessel Registration and Register Alterations](#), Section 5.2, there is no restriction on the registration of newbuilding vessels.
- 4.2 Newbuilding vessels are subject to the same statutory requirements, documentation, and certification obligations that apply to all vessels seeking registration with BMSR, as set out in Bulletin 002 and the relevant provisions of the Barbados Merchant Shipping Act, 2024.

5. No Pre-Registration Survey Required

- 5.1 In accordance with BMSR Bulletin 002, Section 8.1, newbuilding vessels are accepted for registration without a pre-registration inspection by BMSR. Vessels are required to hold valid statutory certificates issued or endorsed by a BMSR Recognised Organisation (RO) at the time of registration.
- 5.2 Accordingly, provided all documentary requirements are met, and the required statutory certification is in order, registration may be completed at or around the time of delivery without delay attributable to a flag State pre-delivery inspection.

6. Recognised Organisations

- 6.1 Owners placing newbuildings in Chinese shipyards may utilise China Classification Society (CCS), together with all IACS member societies recognised by BMSR, for Class and statutory certification services. This provides owners with flexibility to select the Recognised Organisation best suited to their operational and commercial requirements.
- 6.2 The full list of BMSR Recognised Organisations is available at: <https://barbadosmaritime.org/barbados-recognised-organisations/>

7. Registration Process for Newbuilding Vessels

- 7.1 Owners wishing to register a newbuilding vessel under the Barbados flag should contact BMSR or their regional representative at the earliest stage of construction to begin the pre-registration process. Early engagement is strongly recommended to ensure that all documentation and certification is in place in time for delivery.
- 7.2 The principal steps are as follows:
- .1 Submission of a pre-registration application to BMSR, including the building contract details and intended vessel particulars;
 - .2 Confirmation of the appointed RO, which will carry out statutory surveys and issue or endorse all required certificates during construction;
 - .3 Submission of the completed registration documentation at or prior to delivery, including, as applicable:
 - **Builder's Certificate** - Primary evidence of build and first ownership transfer from yard to owner.
 - **Protocol of Delivery and Acceptance** - Confirms formal delivery date and transfer of possession from yard to owner, often critical for determining date of registration and commencement of statutory certificates.
 - **Shipbuilding Contract** (sometimes requested) - mainly if there are ownership, financing, or delivery clarification issues.
 - **Bill of Sale** - Required if ownership transfers after delivery from the initial buyer to another entity before registration.
- 7.3 The full list of required documents is provided in [PPR01-C01 Checklist for Vessel Registration](#)

8. Mortgage Registration and Financing

- 8.1 BMSR is experienced in handling mortgage registrations and finance-related filings associated with newbuilding deliveries, including coordinated same-day delivery and registration transactions where required.
- 8.2 Owners, financiers and legal representatives are encouraged to engage with BMSR at an early stage where mortgage registration or financing arrangements form part of the delivery structure.

9. Enquiries

Owners, operators, brokers and yards with enquiries regarding the registration of newbuilding vessels under the Barbados flag should contact BMSR directly or through their regional representative:

ops@barbadosmaritime.com

Barbados Maritime Ship Registry