



**PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
**Directorate General of Merchant Marine**  
**International Representative Office, N.Y.**

**Merchant Marine Circular No. 151**

<b>To:</b>	All Shipowners, Operators, Masters and Officers of Merchant Ships, and Recognized Organizations
<b>Subject:</b>	Implementation of IMO Unique Company and Registered Owner Identification Number Scheme
<b>Reference:</b>	(a) IMO Resolution MSC.160 (78), 21 May 2004 (b) IMO Circular Letter 2554, 24 June 2004 (c) SOLAS Chapter XI-1, Regulations 3-1 and 5, (tbe) 1 January 2009 (d) SOLAS Chapter IX, Regulation 1, the ISM Code

**BACKGROUND:**

The IMO Unique Company and Registered Owner Identification Number Scheme was introduced in 2004 through adoption of resolution MSC.160(78), as a measure to enhance maritime safety, security and environmental protection, and to facilitate the prevention of maritime fraud. Its purpose is to assign a permanent number for identification purposes to each Company and/or Registered Owner managing ships engaged on international voyages.

**APPLICABILITY:**

SOLAS Chapter XI-1, Regulations 3-1 and 5 will apply to all Companies and Registered Owners managing ships of 100 gross tonnages and above engaged on international voyages. The Scheme goes into full force and effect on 1 January 2009. In an effort to gain experience with the Scheme, the Administration shall begin applying it on a voluntary basis for new and existing Companies and Registered Owners until that time. Companies and Registered Owners are encouraged to participate.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

**Definitions**

- .1 “Company” has the same meaning as in SOLAS regulation IX/1, the ISM Code.
- .2 “Registered Owner” is the owner specified on a ship’s Certificate of Registry issued by the Administration.



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**Procedures**

- 1-. The Number remains unchanged upon transfer of a Company and/or Registered Owner's ship to another flag and will be included on a Company's DOC, the ship's SMC, ISSC and CSR certificates wherever the Company and/or Registered Owner's name should appear. The Number remains unchanged, but unused, in the event a Company and/or Registered Owner sells, or otherwise disposes, of its ship(s) and does not begin operating new ship(s). The Number remains unchanged in the event the Company and/or Registered Owner, after having sold or otherwise disposed of its ships, renews ship management at a future time.
- 2-. Lloyd's Register-Fairplay (LR-F) maintains a full history audit trail of changes to Company and/or Registered Owner information, with the date of each change recorded. When Companies and/or Registered Owners merge, LR-F assigns the Number of the larger Company and/or Registered Owner to the new amalgamated entity, while the Number of the smaller entity is frozen and not re-used. LR-F maintains the history of Companies and/or Registered Owners of ships on its database.
- 3-. The Number is an LR-F number, allocated at the time of issuance of a ship's Certificate of Registry issued by the Administration. The Number begins with the letters "IMO" followed by either "Company" or "Registered Owner", and seven digits assigned by LR-F. The IMO Unique Company and Registered Owner Identification Number Scheme are managed in parallel with the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme without charge by LR-F. The Number(s) are not, however, the same as the IMO Ship Identification Number.
- 4-. New Companies and/or Registered Owners managing ships covered by the Scheme are assigned a Number when their ship is registered with the Administration. For existing Companies and/or Registered Owners prior to 1 January 2009, the Number should be assigned at an early convenient date, or when any document detailed in paragraph 2.1 above is issued or renewed. The Number must be assigned whenever any such document is issued, revised or renewed on or after 1 January 2009.
- 5-. Original information about a Company and/or Registered Owner will be collected by the Administration by means of the application documentation required at the time of registration. The information collected is that which the Administration ordinarily collects during the registration process, namely:
  1. Company/Registered Owner name-styles;
  2. country/State of incorporation (registration);
  3. Date of incorporation; and
  4. Full addresses (operational address) and contact details.
- 6-. During registration, the Administration will expect the Company and Registered Owner to provide the Number assigned to it. The Administration may contact LR-F to confirm the Numbers provided by the Company and Registered Owner. The Administration will also be routinely updating its database with that of LR-F.



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**Obtaining Numbers**

The Number for the Company and Registered Owner can be obtained by contacting LR-F at the following address using the appropriate form provided in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2:

Lloyd's Register – Fairplay Ltd  
Lombard House  
3 Princess Way, Redhill,  
Surrey, RH1 1UP, UK  
Telephone: +44 1737 379000  
Fax : +44 1737 379001  
Web : [www.lrfairplay.com](http://www.lrfairplay.com)  
E-mail: [owners-data-feedback@lrfairplay.com](mailto:owners-data-feedback@lrfairplay.com)

LR-F will accept both paper and electronic request forms (appendices 1 and 2) from Companies or Registered Owners who have not previously been assigned a Number. Companies or Registered Owners also may use the form to update their information. LR-F will confirm updated Company information with the Administration.

LR-F will also accept both paper and electronic request forms (Appendix 1) from Recognized Organizations (ROs) that undertake Safety Management Certificate (SMC) and Document of Compliance (DOC) audits, and from Recognized Security Organizations (RSOs) that undertake International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) audits, for Companies who have not previously been assigned a Number.

LR-F has established a free website, which allows Administrations to look up Numbers as well as communicate correct Company details on existing records. By participating in the IMO Unique Company and Registered Owner Identification Number Scheme, however, the Administration assumes no duty to examine, correct, change, alter, or modify information contained on the LR-F free website, or to notify LR-F of incorrect information contained on the website.

This website is also be available to Companies and Registered Owners, who may use it to complete the numbering requirements on the Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR) (resolution A.959 (23)). Alternatively, these Numbers are available on the Equasis free public website.

These websites are also accessible to and used by port States control authorities to verify ship documentation. The Administration will not accept or be held responsible for mistakes or errors in the information on these websites. It will therefore be very important that Companies and Registered Owners provide both LR-F and the Administration with accurate matching information.



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**Inquiries concerning the subject of this Circular or any request should be directed to:**  
**Directorate General of Merchant Marine, New York Office**  
**International Representative Office**  
**369 Lexington Avenue, 14 floor**  
**New York, NY 10017**  
**U.S.A.**

**Phone: ++1 (212) 869-6440**

**Fax: ++1 (212) 575-2285**



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**Appendix 1**

**REQUEST FOR COMPANY  
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**

LLOYD'S REGISTER - FAIRPLAY  
Lombard House  
3 Princess Way  
Redhill  
SURREY RH1 1UP

TELEPHONE +44 1737 379061  
INTERNATIONAL FAX +44 1737 379001  
EMAIL: [owners-data-feedback@lrfairplay.com](mailto:owners-data-feedback@lrfairplay.com)

TO ENABLE ASSIGNMENT OF A COMPANY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

CURRENT COMPANY NAME (required) \_\_\_\_\_

FORMER NAME(S) (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

- Please indicate This is a newly established
- This is a Change of Company Name  (please give former name above)
- This is a Company Merger  (please give former names of all companies above)

DATE OF INCORPORATION \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY OF (REGISTRATION) \_\_\_\_\_

FULL STREET ADDRESS (required) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**IF KNOWN - PARENT COMPANY**

IMO ship identification number(s) or if not available other ship \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please supply at least one IMO ship identification number in the current fleet. This helps in the identification of Company records)

SENDER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SENDER FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SENDER EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**LR-F Reply:**

IMO Company No. \_\_\_\_\_



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**Appendix 2**

**REQUEST FOR REGISTERED OWNER  
IDENTIFICATION NUMBER**

LLOYD'S REGISTER - FAIRPLAY  
Lombard House  
3 Princess Way  
Redhill  
SURREY RH1 1UP

TELEPHONE +44 1737 379061  
INTERNATIONAL FAX +44 1737 379001  
EMAIL: [owners-data-feedback@lrfairplay.com](mailto:owners-data-feedback@lrfairplay.com)

**TO ENABLE ASSIGNMENT OF A REGISTERED OWNER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER,  
PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:**

CURRENT COMPANY NAME (required) \_\_\_\_\_

FORMER NAME(S) (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate This is a newly established

This is a Change of Company Name

(please give former name above)

This is a Company Merger

(please give former names of all companies above)

DATE OF INCORPORATION \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY OF INCORPORATION (REGISTRATION) \_\_\_\_\_

FULL STREET ADDRESS (required) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ WEBSITE \_\_\_\_\_

**IF KNOWN - PARENT COMPANY**

IMO ship identification number(s) or if not available other ship details \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please supply at least one IMO ship identification number in the current fleet. This helps in the identification of Company records)

SENDER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SENDER FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SENDER EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**LR-F Reply:**

IMO Registered Owner No. \_\_\_\_\_