



**INTERNATIONAL SHIP REGISTRY OF GABON**  
**COMMISSIONAIRE OF MARITIME AFFAIRS**

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**To :** Representatives of Gabon flagged vessels, Deputy Registrars, Ship-owners & Ship-operators, Masters, Recognized Organisation and Flag State Surveyors.

**Subject: “Crew Dispensations due to Article VIII of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended”.**

**Scope:** This Marine Circular aims to communicate to the users of the International Ship Registry of Gabon (I.S.R of Gabon) that, based on Article VIII from the STCW’78 Convention, as amended, under exceptional circumstances, the I.S.R. of Gabon may grant a Dispensation allowing a given seafarer to serve onboard ships for a determinate period when deemed as harmless for people, goods and the environment, as prescribed by the relevant IMO Convention.

**References:**

- A. Crew Dispensations due to Article VIII of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended.

**General Remarks on IMO STCW Dispensations**

1. As per IMO Article VIII of the STCW Convention under exceptional circumstances, a formal Dispensation may be issued to permit a seafarer to serve on a specific ship for a specified period at a higher level than their current Certificate of Competency. Such dispensations are issued strictly in accordance with Article VIII of the STCW Convention.
2. Dispensations may be issued in exceptional circumstances, provided that the dispensation does not cause danger to a person, property, or the environment. Under such circumstances, a dispensation may be issued to permit a specified seafarer to serve



on a specified ship for a specified period (not exceeding 6 months) in a capacity that is one (1) grade higher than that for which the individual holds the appropriate Certificate of Competency. Dispensations for masters and chief engineers can only be issued in genuine cases of force majeure, and then only for the shortest possible period.

### STCW Dispensations Procedural Context

3. The Technical Department of the I.S.R. of Gabon will be in charge of the issuance of Dispensations based on Article VIII of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended. The Dispensations will be issued through the Head Office and the I.S.R. of Gabon, detailed as follows: International Ship Registry of Gabon, 'Technical Intershipping' <technical@intershippingsservices.com>.
4. The I.S.R. of Gabon establishes the following situations for the issuance of **Dispensations based on Article VIII of the STCW'78 Convention**, as amended:
  - Force Majeure Cases.
  - Family Reasons.
  - Medical Reasons.
  - Special Circumstances.
5. The I.S.R. OF Gabon determines that for the positions of **Master and Chief Engineer**, the dispensations can only be granted for the cases of force majeure and for periods, as brief as possible.
6. No Dispensation will be granted based on Article VIII of the STCW'78 Convention, as amended, for the positions of Radiotelegraph Officer and Radiotelephone Operator, Except as provided by the relevant Radio Regulations.
7. The beneficiary of the Dispensation shall be competent for the position to be granted with the Dispensation, with the condition of its competence being enough to occupy the vacant position without risks, so the I.S.R. of Gabon deems it satisfactory.
8. To request a Dispensation, the company will comply with the technical and administrative requirements established by the I.S.R. of Gabon and complete the attached request form<sup>1</sup>.

### Issuance of an “Authorization Letter”

9. In exceptional cases, the I.S.R. of Gabon may grant an “Authorization Letter” under the condition of the “Merchant Shipping Act of Gabon”, according to the following situation:
  - Single voyage for ship delivery.
  - Damage or loss of technical documentation issued by the I.S.R. of Gabon to the Seafarers.
  - Special Circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> “Application for Crew Dispensation Letter”



**Issuance of an “Attestation Letter”**

- 10.** The I.S.R. of Gabon may grant an “Attestation Letter” to attest the technical documentation for seafarers, issued in case it is required by the Port State Control Authorities or any Competent Authority.
  
- 11.** To request an “Attestation Letter”, the requesting company must comply with the following requirements:
  - Request through an e-mail, addressed to the I.S.R. of Gabon detailing the situation.
  - Crew List duly signed and stamped either by the Master or the Company.
  - Technical Documentation issued by the I.S.R. of Gabon.
  - Copy of the valid Ship Registry Certificate.

Encl.: Application for Crew Dispensation Letter Format.



**APPLICATION FOR CREW DISPENSATION LETTER**

**PART 1. VESSEL PARTICULARS**

Vessel Name:		IMO Number:	
Call Sign:		Type of Vessel:	
Gross Tonnage Power (KW):		Year of Build:	

**PART 2. REASON OF REQUEST**

<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Reason (Attach Medical & Master's Report)	<input type="checkbox"/> Force Majeure Cases & Expiring License (Attach Expiring Certificate)
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Reasons (Attach Master's Report)	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Circumstances (Specify / Attach Proof & Master's Report)

**PART 3. OWNER'S PARTICULARS**

Registered Owner Registered Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Ship Management Company's coordinates:	

**PART 4. DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST**

Description of Reason:	
Crew Who Will Disembark (Name & Capacity):	
Port of Departure:	
Estimated Time of Departure:	
Crew Who Will Cover the Position (Name & Capacity):	
Next Port of Arrival:	
Estimated Time of Arrival:	

**PART 5. MANDATORY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED**

<input type="checkbox"/> Crew List	<input type="checkbox"/> Documentation of the Crew Who Will Cover the Position
<input type="checkbox"/> Documents Required as per Part 2	

**Date:**

**Name of Applicant:**

**Signature/ Stamp:**

**I do hereby confirm that I am an authorized person to act on behalf of the company and/or the Owner of the subject vessel as per Part 1 and that all information contained in this application is true and correct.**