



Kiribati Ship Registry

Singapore Operations Office:

10 Anson Road #25-14, International Plaza, Singapore 079903

Tel: +65 6225 0555 Email: info@kiribaship.com Website: https://kiribaship.com

MARINE CIRCULAR 2/2025

13 March 2025

TO : Ship Owners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Charterers, Ship Masters

SUBJECT : Minimum Safe Manning Scale

PURPOSE :

This Marine Circular provides the minimum safe manning requirements and revokes Marine Circular 34/2016 dated 08 October 2016.

REFERENCES :

- (a) Maritime Labour Convention, 2006
- (b) International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended

DEFINITIONS :

The following abbreviations stand for:

- "COC" – A Certificate of Competence which is issued in compliance with the provisions of the STCW Convention
- "COE" – Certificate of Endorsement issued in recognition of a STCW Certificate issued by a country on the IMO "White List"
- "DCE" – Certificate of Endorsement issued in recognition of a STCW Dangerous Cargo Endorsement Certificate
- "GOC" – Certificate of Endorsement issued in recognition of a STCW GMDSS-General Operator Certificate
- "GMDSS" – Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
- "MLC" – Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended
- "OSV" – Offshore Support Vessel
- "STCW" – International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended

The term "Administration" shall mean the Kiribati Ship Registry.

APPLICATION :

This Marine Circular applies to all self-propelled Kiribati flagged ships except for fishing vessels which are addressed in Marine Circular 21/2012.

CONTENTS :

1. General Requirements

- 1.1. Only OFFICERS are required to apply for Crew Endorsements (i.e. COE/GOC/DCE/SSO etc).
- 1.2. Officers onboard specialized vessels such as Tankers will also need to apply for Crew Endorsements specific to the vessel, for example, Senior Officers on board a LPG Tanker will need to submit the following certificates for endorsement by this Administration:
 - 1.2.1. Tanker Familiarization Certificate for junior officers and ratings – STCW Chapter V Regulation V/1-2 Paragraph 1 and 2 (Section A-V/1-2 Paragraph 1).
 - 1.2.2. Advance Tanker Safety Certificate for senior officers – STCW Chapter V Regulation V/1-2 Paragraph 3 and 4 (Section A-V/1-2 Paragraph 2).

- 1.3. Provision for a reduced Deck manning requirement specific to OSV is made in this circular in view that the operations of OSVs differ from other types of cargo vessels. Please refer to section 3.2 for OSV specific deck manning levels.

2. Principles of Minimum Safe Manning

- 1.1. The minimum safe manning of the vessel shall observe IMO Resolution A.1047 (27) "Principles of Minimum Safe Manning", as amended, in ensuring that the vessel is sufficiently, effectively and efficiently manned to ensure the safety and security of the vessel, safe navigation and operations at sea, safe operations in port, prevention of human injury or loss of life, the avoidance of damage to the marine environment and to property, and the welfare and health of seafarers through the avoidance of fatigue.
- 1.2. All crew working on board shall comply with the hours of work and hours of rest in accordance with the requirements of STCW and MLC.

3. Manning Scale – Deck

3.1. Applicable to all self-propelled vessels (except for OSV)

Gross Tonnage	Minimum qualified Officers & Ratings				Remarks
	Master	Chief Mate	OOW Navigation	Deck Watch Rating	
3000 & above	1(a)	1(b)	1(c)	3(d)	For International voyages
1600 - 2999	1(e)	1(f)	1(c)	3(d)	For International voyages
500 - 1599	1(e)	-	2(c)	3(d)	For International voyages
200 - 499	1(e)	-	1(c)	2(d)	For International voyages
Below 200	1(e)	-	1(c)	1(d)	For International voyages

3.2. Applicable to OSV

Gross Tonnage	Minimum qualified Officers & Ratings				Remarks
	Master	Chief Mate	OOW Navigation	Deck Watch Rating	
3000 & above	1(a)	1(b)	1(c)	2(d)	For International voyages
1600 - 2999	1(e)	1(f)	1(c)	2(d)	For International voyages
200 - 1599	1(e)	-	1(c)	2(d)	For International voyages
Below 200	1(e)	-	1(c)	1(d)	For International voyages

Certificate Type

- (a) COC under Reg II/2 (Master on ships above 3000 GT)
 (b) COC under Reg II/2 (Chief Mate on ships above 3000 GT)
 (c) COC under Reg II/1 (OOW on ships of 500 GT and above)
 (d) Certification of ratings forming part of a navigational watch, Reg II/4 or II/5
 (e) COC under Reg II/2 (Master on ships between 500 and 3000 GT)
 (f) COC under Reg II/2 (Chief Mate on ships between 500 and 3000 GT)

4. Manning Scale – Engine Room

Engine Power (kW)	Minimum qualified Engineers & Ratings				
	Chief Engineer	Second Engineer	OOW Engineer	Engine Watch Ratings	Vessel certified for unattended machinery space (UMS) operation
3000 & above	1(a)	1(b)	1(c)	2(d)	Less 1 OOW
1500 - 2999	1(e)	1(f)	-	1(d)	-
750 - 1499	1(e)	-	1(c)	1(d)	-
749 & below	-	1(f)	1(c)	1(d)	Less 1 OOW

Certificate Type

- (a) COC under Reg III/2 (C/E on ships above 3000 KW)
 (b) COC under Reg III/2 (2/E on ships above 3000 KW)
 (c) COC under Reg III/1 (OOW on ships above 750 KW)
 (d) Certification of ratings forming part of an engine watch, Reg III/4 or III/5
 (e) COC under Reg III/3 (C/E on ships between 750 and 3000 KW)
 (f) COC under Reg III/3 (2/E on ships between 750 and 3000 KW)

5. GMDSS Radio Personnel (STCW Reg. IV/2) Requirements

Area A1	At least 1 officer with GMDSS Restricted Operator's Cert (ROC)
Area A2	At least 1 officer with GMDSS General Operator's Cert (GOC)
Area A3	At least 2 officers with GMDSS GOC or 1 dedicated officer with a GMDSS GOC
Area A4	At least 2 officers with GMDSS GOC or 1 dedicated officer with a GMDSS GOC

6. Reduction in Manning Levels

- 6.1. Requests to reduce the minimum safe manning requirements stipulated in sections (3) and (4) may be considered by the Administration with submission of the following information:
- 6.1.1. Reason(s) for the request in reduction e.g. vessel design, restricted area of operations, restricted operation hours etc. All reasons shall be provided in a manner that is clear and easy to understand with supporting documents where applicable.
 - 6.1.2. Proposed reduction in manning level.
- 6.2. The Administration may reject any request for reduction in manning if it considers that such reduction puts the safety of the crew and vessel at risks.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Registrar
Kiribati Ship Registry