



**IMO Unique Company and Registered Owner Identification Number Scheme**

**Merchant Shipping Notice 79**

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers,  
Masters, Owners' representatives and Recognised Organisations*

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The Merchant Shipping Directorate wishes to draw the attention of all concerned to the entry into force on 1 January 2009 of Regulations XI-1/3-1 and XI-1/5 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, concerning the IMO Unique Company and Registered Owner Identification Number Scheme.

Regulations XI-1/3-1 and XI-1/5 will apply to all companies and registered owners managing ships of 100 gross tonnage and above engaged on international voyages. The Scheme consists of a seven digit unique number beginning with the letters "IMO" followed by either "Company" or "Registered Owner", where "Company" has the same meaning as in SOLAS Regulation IX/1 (the DOC Company) and "Registered Owner" is the owner specified on the ship's certificate of registry issued by the Administration. The Scheme will be managed by Lloyds Register Fairplay (LRF) in parallel with the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme.

The number remains the same when a company changes its name or if its ships are transferred to another flag. When companies merge, LRF will assign the number of the larger company to the newly amalgamated entity, while the number of the small entity will be frozen and not re-used. The number remains unchanged, but unused, in the event that a company and/or registered owner sells, or otherwise disposes, of its ship(s) and does not begin to operate new ships. The number will also remain unchanged in the event the company and/or registered owner, after having sold or otherwise disposed of its ships, renews ship management/ownership at a later stage.

The number is to be included on the company's Document of Compliance (DOC), the ship's Safety Management Certificate (SMC), the International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) and the Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR) issued, revised or renewed on or after 1 January 2009. Although Regulations XI-1/3-1 and XI-1/5 are clear in that the Company identification number shall be inserted on these documents when these are issued, renewed or updated on or after the 1 January 2009, companies may still opt to ask for these documents to be reissued earlier than their due date to include the identification number.

Companies and Registered Owners can obtain their number directly from LRF free of charge. Numbers can also be obtained by recognised organisations authorised to issue statutory certificates on behalf of the Administration. The numbers can be obtained from <http://www.imonumbers.lrfairplay.com> by searching the online database by company name. Should the search result in no number, the company/registered owner can apply online by completing one of the available request forms. Furthermore, if there are any changes in the company's details, or the details need to be corrected, the changes can be updated using the available online forms.

Merchant Shipping Directorate  
Valletta

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