



MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE MSN 2824

(This Merchant Shipping Notice is issued under Section 209 of the Merchant Shipping Act Cap 165 as amended by Act No. 6 of 2019)

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIPBUILDING AND REHABILITATION IN TANZANIA

Notice is hereby issued to all shipbuilders, ship repairers, ship owners, ship operators, owners of small craft, fishing vessel owners, Masters, officers, and other stakeholders in the Maritime Sector.

This notice should be read together with the Merchant Shipping Act, CAP 165, and The Merchant Shipping (Small Ships, Local Cargo Ship Safety, Small Ship Safety, Surveys, and Inspections for Vessels Engaged on Local and Coastal Voyages, Inland Waters) Regulations, 2006.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Merchant Shipping Notice provides guidance to shipowners, operators, shipbuilders, and other maritime stakeholders regarding the responsibilities of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) as the designated Maritime Administration. TASAC oversees and regulates ship construction activities in Tanzania, ensuring safety, environmental protection, and compliance with relevant maritime conventions, laws, and regulations. This notice details TASAC's role and the compliance measures necessary to adhere to both national and international standards during ship construction.

Additionally, the notice outlines guidelines for conducting shipbuilding and repair operations as per the Merchant Shipping (Small Ships, Local Cargo Ship Safety, Small Ship Safety, Surveys, and Inspections for Vessels Engaged on Local and Coastal Voyages in Inland Waters) Regulations, 2004, specifically Regulations 20 and 21. Compliance with these guidelines ensures vessels meet established safety and construction standards.

2.0 Scope

2.1 This notice applies to all stakeholders involved in shipbuilding and repair activities for vessels over 4 meters in length. The construction and rehabilitation of these vessels must comply with standards set by TASAC, a Classification Society, or any other competent body recognized by TASAC. Specifically, this notice is directed to:

- (a). Shipowners and operators planning to construct ships in Tanzania or for Tanzanian registration;
- (b). Shipbuilders involved in the design, construction, or major alteration of ships;
- (c). Shipowners of vessels undergoing major rehabilitation; and



- (d). All relevant stakeholders ensure safety and environmental protection throughout the ship construction and rehabilitation processes.

2.2 For vessels exceeding 24 meters in length or 50 gross tonnage (GT)

Such vessels must comply with ship classification standards set by a Recognized Organization (RO) approved by TASAC. If shipowners wish to adopt a classification society not recognized by TASAC, they must seek explicit permission from TASAC before proceeding. Shipowners must also engage the RO from the initial design stage to ensure compliance with classification standards (Refer to the Merchant Shipping (Authorization of Recognized Organizations) Regulations, 2023).

3.0 KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF TASAC AS MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Approval of Ship Plans and Designs

Before construction or rehabilitation begins, shipbuilders and owners must submit ship plans and technical drawings to TASAC for approval as required under Regulations 20 and 21. TASAC ensures these designs meet international standards and the requirements of the Merchant Shipping Act. Required submissions include:

- (a). Project plan (with Gantt chart);
- (b). Design/ Construction proposal;
- (c). Materials testing reports;
- (d). General arrangement plans;
- (e). Detailed design drawings;
- (f). Hull construction plans;
- (g). Structural calculations;
- (h). Machinery plans;
- (i). Electrical and control systems;
- (j). Fire and safety plans;
- (k). Stability booklet;
- (l). Lines plan (for vessels below 24 meters or 50GT); and
- (m). Any other critical documentation.

3.2 For Ships Undergoing Major Rehabilitation

Shipowners must submit plans and technical drawings for the proposed rehabilitation to the Registrar for approval. The submission must detail all structural, safety, and stability changes to align with national and international standards.



3.3 Inspection and Survey During Construction

TASAC-appointed surveyors conduct periodic inspections at various stages of construction to ensure compliance with approved designs and construction standards. These inspections verify:

- (a). Structural integrity;
- (b). Compliance with safety regulations;
- (c). Installation of required equipment and systems; and
- (d). Adherence to environmental protection standards.

4.0 REGISTRATION OF SHIPS

4.1 Registration of New Vessels at the Keel-Laying Stage

Under the Merchant Shipping Act, CAP 165, new vessels under construction must be registered at the keel-laying stage to obtain a hull number. This unique identifier is essential for completing the full registration of the ship upon its completion.

4.2 Registration of Ships Upon Completion

After construction or major rehabilitation, TASAC facilitates full registration of the vessel under the Tanzanian flag. Required documents include:

- (a). Proof of ownership;
- (b). Technical specifications;
- (c). Certificates of Inspection are issued at each milestone;
- (d). Certificate of Classification; and
- (e). Certificate of Construction (Builder's Certificate).

4.3 Issuance of Certificate of Seaworthiness

Upon successful completion of construction and registration, and after final inspections, TASAC issues a Certificate of Seaworthiness, confirming compliance with approved plans, regulations, and international standards.

4.4 Ensuring Compliance with Environmental Regulations

TASAC ensures ship construction aligns with environmental protection standards, including:

- (a). Verifying ships are constructed with technologies to minimize emissions and discharges;



- (b). Ensuring compliance with MARPOL conventions on oil, noxious substances, sewage, and garbage management.

5.0 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

5.1. Submission of Technical Documentation

Shipbuilders and owners must submit all required technical documents, including detailed design plans, safety equipment specifications, and environmental compliance documentation, to TASAC for review and approval before construction begins.

5.2. Survey and Inspection Notifications

Shipowners must notify TASAC of significant milestones, including keel-laying, hull block completion, block assembling, outfitting, equipment, piping and engine installations, painting, Ship launching and Sea trial/ Trial run. TASAC surveyors must have access to the construction site for necessary surveys, and Shipowners must address any deficiencies noted during inspections.

5.3 Adherence to International Maritime Conventions

All vessels constructed in Tanzania or intended for Tanzanian registration must comply with international maritime conventions, including SOLAS, MARPOL, Tonnage and the Load Line Conventions.

5.4 Continuous Compliance

Shipowners must adhere to approved documentation throughout the construction process and notify TASAC of any deviations or modifications.

5.5 Compliance for Vessels Exceeding 24 Meters or 50 GT

- (a). Shipowners must engage ROs from the initial design stage to ensure compliance;
- (b). Permission is required for using non-recognized classification societies; and
- (c). All charges related to ROs services are separate from TASAC fees.

6.0 CHARGES RELATED TO SHIPBUILDING AND REHABILITATION

Charges are specified in the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations, 2019, as amended. These include:

- (a). Shipbuilding Permit Fees;
- (b). Inspection Fees;
- (c). Certificate of Inspection Fees; and
- (d). Assessment Fees for Ship Plans, Drawings, and Stability Booklets.



7.0 PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Non-compliance with MSN 2824, National regulations (stemming from MSA, 2003), or construction standards may result in:

- (a). Denial of certification or registration;
- (b). Suspension of construction or rehabilitation activities; and
- (c). Additional penalties under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2003.

8.0 GUIDANCE FOR COMPLIANCE

TASAC urges shipowners, operators, and builders to cooperate fully throughout the ship construction process to ensure safety, security, and environmental protection in line with national and international standards.

9.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

This Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN 2824) came into force on the 01st day of January, 2025.

10.0 CONTACT INFORMATION

Director General,
Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC),
PSSSF Tower Building, 7th & 8th Floors, Plot No. 20/21, Garden Avenue/Ohio Street,
P.O. Box 989, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 22 2127314
Fax: +255 22 2127313
Email: dg@tasac.go.tz info@tasac.go.tz
Website: www.tasac.go.tz