

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611

Circular Letter No.5096
27 February 2026

To: All IMO Member States
Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental Organizations
Non-governmental Organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Implementation of resolution A.1215(34) – IMO integrated identification number scheme**

Introduction

1 The purpose of the Integrated IMO Identification Number Scheme (ship and company) is to enhance maritime safety and pollution prevention and to facilitate the prevention of maritime fraud. It is not intended to prejudice matters of liability, civil law or other commercial considerations in the operation of a ship.

2 The IMO integrated identification number scheme adopted by the Organization is set out in resolution A.1215(34). This integrated scheme comprises two elements: the IMO Ship Identification Number and the IMO unique company and registered owner identification number scheme.

3 Resolution A.1215(34) provides that a circular letter shall be issued by the Secretariat to specify particular details of the implementation of the Integrated IMO Identification Number Scheme.

A IMO Ship Identification Number

Procedure for allocating and maintaining the IMO Ship Identification Number

4 S&P Global Limited is the service provider responsible for the allocation and management of the IMO Ship Identification Number.

5 Any entity, such as shipowners, operators or shipyards, may request the allocation of an IMO number or the updating of data associated with an existing number by submitting an application to S&P Global Limited.

6 Requests are submitted via the following website <https://imonumbers.ihs.com/>. The data to be submitted are presented in annex 1. Information on the submission process, including all available methods, is also available on the website.

7 The entity applying for the allocation of an IMO Ship Identification Number should inform the relevant flag State Administration within one month of the application.

8 Requesters are recommended, prior to forwarding their requests to S&P Global Limited, to verify (through checking the ship's documentation) whether an identification number has already been assigned in order to facilitate the assignment of the identification numbers to existing ships and to avoid duplication of an IMO ship identification number. It should be borne in mind that an identification number may have already been issued by S&P Global Limited at the request of a classification society or the shipyard concerned.

Data availability and status

9 Assigned identification numbers are available to look up in the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).

10 The IMO Ship Identification Number is an identification number, and its allocation does not define the status of the ship. The status of the ship is defined by the certificates issued by the flag State.

11 Each ship with an allocated IMO Ship Identification Number has an associated status, i.e. "in service" or "not in service". A ship "in service" is one that has the required certificates to engage in voyages.

12 A ship for which S&P Global Limited has no information regarding its flag State is allocated an "unknown" status. The same applies if the same ship is registered by two or more States. Ships with an 'unknown' status are not included in tonnage calculations.

13 The individual number of a ship remains unchanged during the entire life of the ship, even in case of change of flag, name, ownership, or type.

14 A deleted IMO Ship Identification Number will not be reallocated.

Tonnage Calculation

15 As specified in resolution A.1216(34) on Apportionment of expenses among Member States, the tonnage calculation is made on 30 June of the current year based on data available in GISIS. This calculation is completed automatically on that date by S&P Global Limited and verified by the Secretariat.

Verification procedure with the flag State Administration

16 The GISIS database is updated daily, allowing each flag State Administration to carry out the necessary verifications at any time and to inform S&P Global Limited¹ if necessary.

17 On a daily basis, S&P Global Limited carries out checks and may contact the various administrations and stakeholders to obtain information.

18 At any time, a flag State Administration may request S&P Global Limited to modify the data associated with a ship registered under its flag if the data of the ship are not accurate or to remove a ship associated with its flag. These modifications will be reflected in the GISIS database within three weeks.

19 Once a year, on 30 June, S&P Global Limited sends the flag State Administrations the list of ships under their flag with their IMO Ship Identification Number for verification. The flag States must report any changes. After this verification, the data sent by S&P Global Limited are considered to have been verified by the flag State Administrations.

¹ <https://imonumbers.ihs.com/>

B IMO unique company and registered owner identification number scheme**Procedure for allocating and maintaining the IMO unique company and registered owner identification number**

20 S&P Global Limited is the service provider responsible for the allocation and management of the IMO unique company and registered owner identification number.

21 "Company" has the same meaning as in SOLAS regulation IX/1. "Registered owner" is the owner specified on a ship's certificate of registry issued by the flag State.

22 Any companies or registered owners may request the allocation of an IMO unique company and registered owner identification number or the updating of data associated with an existing number by submitting an application to S&P Global Limited directly.

23 The companies and registered owners applying for the allocation of a number should inform the relevant Administration within one month from the date of the application. The "relevant Administration" is the Administration that issued the Document of Compliance, or on whose behalf the Document of Compliance was issued, as defined by SOLAS chapter IX and the ISM Code.

24 Requests are submitted on the following website <https://imonumbers.ihs.com/>. The data to be submitted are presented in annex 2. Information on the submission process, including all available methods, is also available on the website.

25 The IMO unique company and registered owner identification number is a number allocated at the time of the issuance or renewal of a certificate listed in paragraph 36 of resolution A.1215(34) or at the time of the registration of a ship not required to have these certificates.

Data availability and status

26 Assigned identification numbers are available to look up in the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).

27 Once assigned, the number remains unchanged for a company and/or registered owner. When companies and/or registered owners merge, the IMO unique company and registered owner identification number of the surviving or larger, well-known entity is retained, while the IMO unique company and registered owner identification number of the smaller or absorbed entity is frozen and not reused. If a new legal entity is formed as a result of the merger, a new company IMO number will be issued.

28 In order to maintain the integrity of the Numbers in circulation among the maritime community, the Administrations should, to the extent allowed by their national law, not publish these Numbers, nor allow the Numbers to be viewed or downloaded from their websites, other than on a company-by-company basis.

Verification procedure with the flag State Administration

29 The GISIS database is updated daily, allowing each flag State Administration to carry out the necessary verifications at any time and to inform S&P Global Limited² if necessary.

² <https://imonumbers.ihs.com/>

30 On a daily basis, S&P Global Limited carries out checks and may contact the various administrations and stakeholders to obtain information.

31 At any time, a flag State Administration may request S&P Global Limited to modify the data associated with the company and registered owner. These modifications will be reflected in the GISIS database within three weeks.

32 Once a year S&P Global Limited sends the flag State Administrations the list of companies or registered owners for verification as well as a list of ships. The flag State Administrations must report any changes. After this verification, the data sent by S&P Global Limited are considered to have been verified by the flag State.

33 S&P Global Limited carries out regular checks and may contact various flag Administrations and stakeholders to obtain information for verification.

C Revocation of previous circular letters

34 This circular letter revokes Circular Letters Nos.1886/Rev.7, 2554/Rev.4 and 3347.

ANNEX 1**IMO Ship Identification Number - Required data for allocation of a new Number or update of an existing Number**

Ship	Field Names
	Ship Type Description
	Current Ship Name
	Former Name
	MMSI
	Tonnage (69 Convention)
	Gross Tonnage
	Deadweight
	Length Overall LOA
	Length Between Perpendiculars LBP
	Shipbuilder Hull Number
	Number of Main Engines
	Power (KW) of Each Engine
	Main Engine Model
	Call Sign
	Official Number
	Current Classification Society
	Completion Date
	Draught
	Flag
	Keel Laying Date
	Net Tonnage
	Number of Propellers
	Ship Manager
	Shipbuilder Sub Contractor
	Place of Build
	Hull Material
	Launch Date
	Fishing Number
	Moulded Breadth
	Moulded Depth
	Port of Registry
	Registered Owner
	MARPOL Annex I regulations for oil tankers (19, 20, 21)
	Flag Registration Date
	Shipbuilder
	Main Engine Designer
	Main Engine Builder

Ship Builder Details¹	Shipbuilder
	Full Address
	Country Name
	Contact
	Email Address
	Telephone
	Website
	Builder Status
	Town
Company details²	Full Company Name
	IMO unique company and registered owner identification number
	Country Name
	Email address
	Telephone

¹ An IMO number cannot be issued without the following information.

² An IMO number cannot be issued without the following information.

ANNEX 2

IMO unique company and registered owner identification number - Required data for
allocation of a new number or update of an existing number

Company registered owner Details Complex	Field
	Short Company Name
	Country Name
	Town Name
	Telephone
	Email address
	Website
	Full Company Name
	Room Floor Building
	POBox
	Street Number
	Street
	Postcode
	Last Change Date
	Country of Registration
	Nationality of Control
	Company Status
	Full Address
	Founded Date