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Circular Letter No.3991
26 June 2019

To: All IMO Member States and Associate Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Invitation for the nomination of auditors for the verification of conformity with goal-based standards in GISIS**

1 The *International goal-based ship construction standards for bulk carriers and oil tankers* (resolution MSC.287(87)) (the Standards) require, in paragraph 6.1, that the rules for the design and construction of bulk carriers and oil tankers of an organization which is recognized by an Administration in accordance with the provisions of SOLAS regulation XI-1/1, or national rules of an Administration used as an equivalent to the rules of a recognized organization according to SOLAS regulation II-1/3-1, shall be verified as conforming to the Tier I goals and Tier II functional requirements, based on the guidelines developed by the Organization.*

2 In accordance with paragraphs 21 to 27 of the *Guidelines for verification of conformity with goal-based ship construction standards for bulk carriers and oil tankers* (resolution MSC.296(87)) (the Guidelines), a GBS Audit team is to be established under the auspices of the Maritime Safety Committee with its members to be selected by the Secretary-General to conduct audits of the documentation package submitted for verification to determine whether the above rules conform to the Standards.

3 Paragraph 22 of the Guidelines states that Administrations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Organization may nominate individuals for inclusion in a list of experts, maintained by the Secretary-General, from which the members of the GBS Audit Teams will be selected. Nominations should be provided to the Secretary-General, accompanied by a curriculum vitae.

4 Member States and international organizations are requested to ensure that nominated experts meet the qualifications and competencies as set out in paragraph 23 of the Guidelines, which states:

* The *Guidelines for verification of conformity with goal-based ship construction standards for bulk carriers and oil tankers* (resolution MSC.296(87)) will be revoked by resolution MSC.454(100) on 1 January 2020.

"Nominees should have adequate knowledge of, and experience in, ship structural design and construction, the Standards and classification society rules and rule development and be able to correctly interpret the rules for correlation with relevant regulatory requirements. Additionally, nominees should satisfy at least some of the following requirements:

- .1 a degree in naval architecture and/or structural engineering;
- .2 scientific or engineering knowledge of technical subjects addressed in ship structural standards including strength of materials, structural analysis, fatigue analysis, hydrodynamics and load calculations, and structural reliability;
- .3 design, construction or operating experience with the type of ship addressed by the ship rules being verified;
- .4 knowledge of ship safety construction requirements, including SOLAS requirements and industry standards, guidelines and practices;
- .5 knowledge of environmental protection requirements related to ship structures;
- .6 knowledge and experience in survey, inspection and maintenance of ship structures;
- .7 knowledge and experience in shipbuilding and ship construction practices;
- .8 knowledge and experience in auditing; and
- .9 research experience in any of the areas referred to in .1 to .7 above."

5 In order to reduce the administrative burden for nominating Member States, international organizations and the Secretariat, as well as to increase transparency of GBS auditor information, the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 101st session (5 to 14 June 2019), agreed to establish a GISIS functionality for the nomination of GBS auditors. It was further agreed that nominations received previously by Circular Letter No.3076 would not be migrated.

6 Member States and international organizations in consultative status with the Organization are hereby invited to nominate suitable GBS auditors through the new GISIS functionality in the existing GISIS "Contact Points" Module[†] access which should be sought through the national IMO WebAccounts Administrator.

7 The new GBS auditor nomination functionality is intuitive and will allow the Secretariat to choose GBS auditors by their field of expertise, which will facilitate the selection process by the Secretary-General.

8 All information, except for information considered personal and confidential such as telephone number, address and CV, will be made public and all GBS auditors, when selected, will be requested to provide further information as required by IMO's recruitment procedures for consultants.

9 This Circular Letter revokes Circular Letter No.3076 dated 19 July 2010.

[†] <https://gisis.imo.org/Public/CP/Browse.aspx>