



№ 7/CIRC/FSI

2022 / 04 / 11

To: All Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships flying  
Georgia Flag, Masters and Officers, Recognized Organizations,  
Flag State Inspectors, Recognized Agents

**Subject: Exemption of Unmanned Non-Self-Propelled (UNSP) Barges From Certain Survey and Certification Requirements under the MARPOL Convention**

**Reference:**

- MARPOL, International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, Consolidated Edition 2017, as amended
- IMO RESOLUTION MEPC.328(76) - amendments to MARPOL annex VI (2021 revised MARPOL annex VI);
- IMO RESOLUTION MEPC.330(76), amendments to MARPOL annexes I and IV (Exemption of UNSP barges from certain survey and certification requirements), adopted on 17 June 2021;
- IMO circular MEPC.1/Circ.892, Guidelines for exemption of unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barges from certain survey and certification requirements under the MARPOL convention, adopted 9 July 2021;
- Maritime Code of Georgia.

**1. Purpose:**

1.1 The Purpose of this Circular is to provide specific guidance for port States, recognized organizations (RO), shipowners, ship managers, operators and other relevant parties, on the application of the relevant requirements of the MARPOL Convention concerning exemption of unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barges from certain survey and certification requirements.

**2. Application:**

2.1 This Circular is applicable to the exemption(s) of UNSP barges from certain requirements as regulated in regulation 3.7 of MARPOL Annex I, regulation 3.2 of MARPOL Annex IV and regulation 3.4 of MARPOL Annex VI.

2.2 RO are authorized to issue an exemption certificate on behalf of Georgia in accordance with regulation mentioned in section 2.1 of this circular.

2.3 The Amendments to MARPOL Annex I, IV and VI concerning exemption of unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barges from certain survey and certification requirements will enter into force on **1 November 2022**.

**3. Exemption of UNSP barges from certain survey and certification requirements:**

3.1 For purpose of the MARPOL annex I, unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barge means a barge that:

- is not propelled by mechanical means;
- carries no oil;
- has no machinery fitted that may use oil or generate oil residue (sludge);
- has no oil fuel tank, lubricating oil tank, oily bilge water holding tank and oil residue (sludge) tank; and
- has neither persons nor living animals on board.

3.2 For purpose of the MARPOL annex IV, Unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barge means a barge that:

- is not propelled by mechanical means;
- has neither persons nor living animals on board;
- is not used for holding sewage during transport; and
- has no arrangements that could produce sewage.

3.3 For purpose of the MARPOL annex VI, Unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barge means a barge that:

- is not propelled by mechanical means;
- has no system, equipment and/or machinery fitted that may generate emissions regulated by this Annex; and
- has neither persons nor living animals on board.

#### 4. Procedures for granting exemptions:

4.1 The shipowner, Manager or operator should apply to the Recognized Organization (RO) for exemption(s), with relevant information on the exemption(s) conditions for UNSP barges and relevant drawings (General Arrangement Plan, Capacity Plan and any other plans or documents, as necessary).

4.2 RO should review the General Arrangement Plan, Capacity Plan and other relevant information to confirm that the relevant conditions referred to in regulation 3.7 of MARPOL Annex I, regulation 3.2 of MARPOL Annex IV, or regulation 3.4 of MARPOL Annex VI.

4.3 After a satisfactory review of the submitted plans and information, a survey of the UNSP barge should be carried out to confirm if the actual arrangements on board comply with the exemption conditions, as appropriate.

4.4 Exemption requirements may not be met where, whether temporarily or permanently, the barge has a means of generating oil residues, exhausts gas emissions, sewage, or other pollutants as defined in MARPOL Annexes I, IV or VI. In such cases, the exemption of survey and certification requirements for the applicable MARPOL Annexes should not be granted.

4.5 Based on satisfactory results of the survey, certificates for exemption of a UNSP barge from certain survey and certification requirements under MARPOL Annexes I, IV and/or VI, as per regulations 3.7 and 9.2 of MARPOL Annex I, regulations 3.2 and 7.2 of MARPOL Annex IV, regulations 3.4 and 8.4 of MARPOL Annex VI and forms set out in appendices of MARPOL Annexes I, IV and VI.

4.6 Exemption certificates shall be issued by the RO on behalf of Georgia and copy of the certificate must be sent to the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia (hereinafter referred as MTA).

4.7 Exemption certificates are to be issued with a validity of five (5) years after a confirmatory survey.

4.8 All exemption certificates must be uploaded by MTA to the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).

#### 5. Place of the exemption certificate:

5.1 During towing or pushing operations, the exemption certificates for each UNSP barge must be available to the towing or pushing vessel.

#### 6. Contact Details:

6.1 Recognized Organizations, Ship owner, Ship Operator or Management Company of a ship flying the Georgian flag, may contact MTA for additional consultation and assistance.

LEPL- Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia  
Ships Registry and Flag Control Department  
Tel: +995 (422) 274925  
E-mail: [fsi@mta.gov.ge](mailto:fsi@mta.gov.ge)  
Hotline/AOH: +995 (577) 221622

Attachments:

*Annex I - IMO RESOLUTION MEPC.328(76) - amendments to MARPOL annex VI (2021 revised MARPOL annex VI);*

*Annex II - IMO RESOLUTION MEPC.330(76), amendments to MARPOL annexes I and IV (Exemption of UNSP barges from certain survey and certification requirements), adopted on 17 June 2021;*

*Annex III - IMO circular MEPC.1/Circ.892, Guidelines for exemption of unmanned non-self-propelled (UNSP) barges from certain survey and certification requirements under the MARPOL convention, adopted 9 July 2021.*

Director

SIGNED/SEALED  
ELECTRONICALLY 

Tamar Ioseliani