



TECHNICAL CIRCULAR No. 939 of 7th September 2026

To	All Surveyors/Auditors. All flags
Title	Transfer of ships between State
Reference	MSC/Circ.1140 – MEPC/Circ.424

Amendments to MSC/Circ.1140 – MEPC/Circ.424 on Transfer of ships between States

Concerns were raised about ships that are deregistered by a flag state for non-compliance with statutory requirements before securing registration with a new flag State. To address this gap, draft amendments to MSC/Circ.1140 – MEPC/Circ.424 were developed which introduce a notification mechanism under which flag States would inform the IMO when a ship is deregistered without a new registration. The objective is to improve information sharing through the IMO and enhance Member States' awareness of ships that may temporarily operate without a flag.

The draft amendments will be submitted to MSC 112 and MEPC 85 for approval (November–December 2026), where they may also consider whether related legal issues should be referred to the IMO Legal Committee.

Further, the potential safety, environmental protection and seafarer welfare risks associated with stateless or abandoned ships were noted, as well as broader legal issues concerning the responsibilities of former flag States and the jurisdiction of port States. This was referred to the Legal Committee for further consideration.

REFERENCE:

- MSC 112

ATTACHMENTS: No.

Kindest Regards,
CONARINA Technical Office

CONARINA Head Office

6505 Blue Lagoon Dr. Suite 455
Miami, FL., 33126
Tel: 1 (786) 558 5288,
Fax: 1 (786) 325 0200,
joel@conarinagroup.com