



**REPUBLIC of SAN MARINO  
MARITIME AUTHORITY**

Rev. 0

***MAIN CONTACT: SAN MARINO SHIP REGISTER***

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**San Marino Maritime Regulation**

**SMMAR – 2026-TEC-001**

**01 February 2026**

**San Marino Ship Register SMSR**

**Amendment to the Statutory Certification Scheme**

TO: Recognised Organisations, Shipowners, Managers, Masters, Seafarers, SMSR partners, SMSR brokers, Surveyors, and the general public.



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### **Amendment to the Statutory Certification Scheme**

#### **I - PREAMBLE**

##### **1. Background and Purpose**

The San Marino Maritime Authority continuously monitors the safety, environmental protection, and labour performance of ships flying the San Marino flag, in line with international conventions and the national Flag State legislation and policy.

Based on periodic performance assessments, the Authority has reviewed the statutory certification scheme applicable to the San Marino flagged vessels.

##### **2. Role and Reliability of IACS Recognized Organizations**

Recognized Organizations that are members to the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) are subject to enhanced governance, uniform technical standards, peer review mechanisms, and continuous monitoring.

IACS members apply harmonized rules and procedures and demonstrate a consistently higher level of reliability in:

- statutory survey execution,
- certification accuracy,
- compliance with SOLAS, MARPOL, and Load Line requirements,
- deficiency prevention and risk mitigation.

As a result, IACS membership is internationally recognized as a benchmark for quality and technical robustness in statutory certification.

##### **3. San Marino Flag Performance and Statistical Evidence**

San Marino flag performance statistics, including Port State Control (PSC) inspection, Flag State Inspection and Recognized Organization audit outcomes, clearly indicate that:

- vessels classed and statutorily certified by non-IACS Recognized Organizations show a disproportionately higher rate of deficiencies and detentions;
- such performance trends are not aligned with the San Marino Flag State quality objectives and safety policy.

The statistical analysis demonstrates that continued issuance of full statutory certification by non-IACS ROs presents an increased compliance and reputational risk for the Flag.

##### **4. Scope of the Regulatory Change (see paragraph II – Regulatory Article Wording)**

In order to strengthen flag performance and ensure alignment with international best practices, the Authority has provided that, for newly registered vessels:



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- All statutory certificates shall be issued exclusively by San Marino Recognized Organizations that are members of IACS.
- Non-IACS San Marino Recognized Organizations shall be limited to issuing only the following certificates:
  - Maritime Labour Certificate (MLC)
  - Safety Management Certificate (SMC)
  - Document of Compliance (DOC)
  - International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC)

These certificates relate primarily to management systems, labour conditions, and security compliance, where performance data does not indicate the same level of technical risk observed in ship structural and safety certification.

### **5. Policy Alignment and Expected Outcomes**

This regulatory amendment is fully consistent with:

- the San Marino Flag State Policy on safety and quality,
- international expectations regarding Flag State oversight,
- continuous improvement of PSC performance indicators.

The expected outcomes include:

- reduction of PSC deficiencies and detentions,
- improved safety and environmental protection standards,
- enhanced international credibility of the San Marino flag.

### **6. Conclusion**

The limitation of statutory certification to IACS-member Recognized Organizations is a risk-based, evidence-driven decision, taken in the interest of maintaining a high-quality register and ensuring that San Marino vessels meet the highest international standards of safety and compliance as well as reputation among the stakeholders.



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**II - Regulatory Article Wording**

**a) Statutory Certification Issued on Behalf of the San Marino Maritime Authority for vessels registered in San Marino from 01/02/2026 and onward.**

1. For the purposes of statutory surveys and certification carried out on behalf of the San Marino Maritime Authority, only San Marino Recognized Organizations that are members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) shall be authorized to issue statutory certificates required under the applicable international conventions, protocols, and codes.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, San Marino Recognized Organizations that are not members of IACS may be authorized to issue exclusively the following certificates:
  - Maritime Labour Certificate (MLC);
  - Safety Management Certificate (SMC);
  - Document of Compliance (DOC);
  - International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC).
3. All other statutory certificates, including but not limited to certificates related to safety construction, safety equipment, safety radio, load line, and pollution prevention, shall be issued solely by San Marino Recognized Organizations belonging to the IACS group.
4. This limitation is adopted on the basis of Flag State performance monitoring and statistical analysis, which indicate that vessels classed and statutorily certified by non-IACS Recognized Organizations present higher rates of deficiencies and detentions during Port State Control inspections, a performance level not consistent with the San Marino Flag State policy objectives.
5. The San Marino Maritime Authority reserves the right to take additional measures, including suspension or withdrawal of authorization, should the performance of any Recognized Organization not meet the required safety and quality standards.

**b) Statutory Certification Issued on Behalf of the San Marino Maritime Authority for vessels registered in San Marino before 01/02/2026**

1. These vessels may continue with the current certification scheme unless different specific communication from the San Marino Maritime Authority, as specified at the following point no. 2.
2. The vessels classed or certified by a non IACS San Marino Recognized Organization will be periodically evaluated upon Port State Controls and Flag State Inspections performances. In case these will be below the acceptable standard and a clear Class / Recognized Organization responsibility will be ascertained, a formal request to change Class / RO to an IACS Member San Marino Recognized Organization will be sent to the Owner / to the Company. In such a case the time frame under which the Class / RO change must be carried out is the first expiry date of the current Class / Statutory certificates.