

NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE REMOVAL OF WRECKS

The Nairobi Wreck Removal Convention comes into force on 14 April 2015. The Convention requires all ships over 300 GT (including fishing vessels and commercial yachts) to have in place insurance to cover the location, marking and removal of a wreck, deemed to be a hazard in the convention area of States that are party to the convention.

Cook Islands Acceded to the Nairobi Wreck Removal Convention on 22 December 2014. We are a State party.

Vessels will need a certificate from a State party attesting that the insurance is in force. In other words if a ship flies the Flag of a state that is not a party to the convention – they have to get their certificates from a State Party.

The final date for states to accede to the convention prior to it coming into force was 14 January 2015. As at that date only 15 states had signed up, including Antigua & Barbuda, Bulgaria, Congo, Cook Islands, Denmark, Germany, India, Iran, Liberia, Malaysia, Marshal Islands, Morocco, Nigeria, Palau, UK.

Notwithstanding that so few States have signed up to the Convention it will be required (under the principle of no more favourable treatment) that all ships carry insurance and Wreck Removal Certificates on 14 April.

The International Group of P&I Insurers will include Wreck Removal Insurance with the renewals of policies which will come into effect on 22 February 2015. This means that 90% of world shipping will have the necessary insurance in place when the Convention comes into force in April.

Cook Islands will issue Wreck Removal Certificates to ships flying the flags of non-State parties.

We have set up an online application process that can be accessed at <https://secure.maritimcookislands.com/wreck/application.php?dr=CIDR-04>

This is similar to our bunker certificate application system.

There is an application fee of US\$300 per vessel. Certificates may be sent via courier for an additional charge, or by postal mail.

Certificate can be issued by our office in Sweden and sent to you/ the vessel from here.

Panama flagged vessels:

We have made an agreement with Panama whereby Cook Islands will issue Panamanian registered vessels with Cook Islands certificates through a joint Maritime Cook Islands/Panama Maritime Authority operation. Please apply to the Panama Maritime Authority for your Cook Islands Wreck Removal Certificates.

For more information, please contact us.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards