



NIUE SHIP REGISTRY

Website: www.niueship.com

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF HARMFUL ANTI-FOULING SYSTEMS ON SHIPS (AFS CONVENTION) (Circular NMC8.2013 (rev1))

PURPOSE: Provide guidance on issuance of Anti-Fouling System Certificate or Declaration on Anti-fouling System.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

1. IMO 2010 Guidelines for Survey and Certification of Anti-fouling Systems on Ships (MEPC.195(61) Annex 16)
2. The International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships (AFS 2001)

INTRODUCTION:

The International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships (AFS Convention) which was adopted on 5 October 2001 prohibits the use of harmful organisms in anti-fouling paints used on ships and aims to establish a mechanism to prevent the potential future use of other harmful substances in anti-fouling systems. The convention entered into force in Niue with effect from 18 August 2012.

DEFINITIONS:

Anti-fouling system - a coating, paint, surface treatment, surface, or device that is used on a ship to control or prevent attachment of unwanted organisms.

Gross Tonnage - the gross tonnage calculated in accordance with the tonnage measurement regulations contained in Annex 1 to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 or any successor Convention.

International Voyage - a voyage by a Niue flagged ship to or from a port, shipyard, or offshore terminal under the jurisdiction of another State.

Length - the length as defined in the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as modified by the Protocol of 1988 relating thereto, or any successor Convention.

Ship - a vessel of any type whatsoever operating in the marine environment and includes hydrofoil boats, air-cushion vehicles, submersibles, floating craft, fixed or floating platforms, floating storage units (FSUs) and floating production storage and off-loading units (FPSOs).

APPLICATION:

All ships, including fixed and floating platforms, floating storage units (FSUs), and floating production storage and off-loading units (FPSOs), are prohibited from applying or using harmful anti-fouling systems on their ships or craft.

REQUIREMENTS:

A. SECURITY-RELATED FAMILIARISATION TRAINING ON BOARD SHIP

1. **Ships of 400 gross tonnage and above engaged in international voyages** (excluding fixed or floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs) will be required to undergo an initial survey before the ship

is put into service or before the International Anti-fouling System Certificate is issued for the first time; and a survey when the anti-fouling systems are changed or replaced.

2. **Ships of less than 400 gross tonnage but 24 metres or more in length** engaged in international voyages (excluding fixed or floating platforms, FSUs and FPSOs) shall carry a Declaration on Anti-fouling Systems (Appendix I) signed by the owner or authorised agent. The Declaration will have to be accompanied by appropriate documentation such as a paint receipt or contractor invoice.
3. Ships of less than 400 gross tonnage and less than 24 metres in length are not subject to formal survey or certification, however, they may be subject to PSC inspections carried out in accordance with **IMO's 2010 Guidelines for Survey and Certification of Anti-fouling Systems on Ships** (MEPC.195(61) Annex 16) and owners are reminded to maintain appropriate documentation, e.g. paint receipts, on board.

B. SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Regulation 1(4) of Annex 4 of the AFS Convention, the survey and certification functions of the AFS Convention are fully delegated to the ROs authorised to act on behalf of the Administration.

An Initial Survey for issuance of an AFS certificate shall be carried out before the ship is put into service, or when the anti-fouling system is changed or replaced.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Registry at technical@niuanship.com or call: +65 6226-2001 for further assistance.