



CIRCULAR NO.1-2024/MARITIME SAFETY

15 MARCH 2024

This Circular serves to provide regular information on maritime safety.

The Solomon Islands Maritime Authority (SIMA) Act 2018, the Shipping Act 1998 as amended, and their subsidiary laws prescribe obligations, rights, and standards for all registered vessels on any voyage and in any waters, and to every vessel(s) in the Solomon Islands waters to any vessel on which Solomon Islands seafarers are employed.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SHIPPING OPERATIONS AND SAFETY

SAFE, RELIABLE AND PROFITABLE DOMESTIC SHIPPING SERVICES

As we are approaching the Easter and National General Election period, an increased number of persons will travel back home.

The domestic fleet in Solomon Islands cannot maintain the capacity required during peak period and operate ships at low capacity the rest of the year generating profit not sufficient enough for safety and quality services. However, the domestic fleet can provide the required services if people plan for their trips and make advanced arrangements with shipping companies.

In return, shipping companies will secure and increase services to adapt to the demand. People using shipping services must pay the service either through individual sea fare, freight rate or charter rate. The shipping schedule can be consulted at:

<https://www.sima.gov.sb/shipping-ops-safety/shipping-inspection-boarding/>.

CHARTERERS!

Please contact ship operators now to charter domestic ships, make advanced payments and plan for voyages from/to Honiara & Provinces.

Domestic ships have all a limited capacity in number of passengers and quantity of cargo.

SAFETY ON BOARD DOMESTIC SHIPS: AN OVERRIDING PRIORITY FOR SIMA

Such services cannot be provided if the safety of passengers, crews and cargo is not guaranteed by the application of the best safety standards on board domestic ships. It is the role of SIMA to enforce standards and laws adopted by Solomon Islands ensuring all persons are safe at sea and there is the same level-playing for all ship operators.

To verify compliance of ships with safety standards, SIMA carries out periodic inspections and special inspections of domestic ships. Special inspections are those conducted on domestic ships departing or arriving in ports verifying the crew members' qualifications, the number of passengers, the loading of cargo and dangerous goods and various safety equipment.

In some cases, a ship not complying with safety requirements will be detained and will not be authorised to leave until deficiencies have been rectified and verified by a SIMA Authorised Officer. The list of vessels detained can be found at:

<https://www.sima.gov.sb/shipping-ops-safety/vessel-inspection-surveying/>.

All ship operators and crews are invited to display on board their ships and communicate the safety message below:

PASSENGERS!

SIMA Vessel Inspectors are on board for your safety.

Please do not interfere with their work.

Please do not board a vessel that is already at full capacity.

You put your life and the life of those travelling with you at risk.

A short video can be watched on SIMA's website at <https://www.sima.gov.sb/> or by clicking on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni1DaRidOrY>.

Below is the shipping schedule. For more information please contact the shipping companies or SIMA at contact@sima.gov.sb or the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) active 24/7 at mrcc@solomon.com.sb.

DOMESTIC VESSEL SCHEDULE			
Days of the Week	Name of Vessel	Port of Calls	Carrying capacity
Monday	Taimareho 1	Auki/Return	300
	Le3na	Auki/Return	87
	Auki Express	Auki/Return (2 Trips)	194
	Pelican II	Auki/Return	300
	Marina II	Bunikalo thru Marovo to Gizo/return same route	211
	Avaiki Maine	Auki/return	200
Tuesday	Taimareho 1	West Areare - Afio/return or southern region-Afio-Walende	300
	Uta Princess II	Signa/Buala	290
	Pelican II	Auki/Return	300
	Le3na	Siota, Auki	87
	Chrismari	Auki	8
	Southern Coast 1	Avuavu	70
	Pelican II	Auki/Return	300
	Gulatata'e	SE Afio - Atoifi/return(long trip), Short trip West Areare Su'u to Afio	335
Wednesday	Le3na	Auki/Return	87
	Airi	Marou bay	90
	Auki Express	Auki/Return	194
	Pelican II	San Goerge/Return	300
Thursday	Avaiki Maine	Renbel (Once in a month)	200
	Ortega	Wagina, Taro	150
	Pelican II	San Goerge/Return	300
	Lokoiola	Ulaw, Ugi, Kirakira	350
	Chrismari	Auki	8
Friday	Taimareho 1	Auki/Return	300
	Le3na	Auki/Return	87
	Chrismari	Auki/Return	8
	Uta Princess	Signa/Buala	115
	Uta Princess II	Lepi - Kilokaka/return same route	290
	Pelican II	San Goerge/Return	300
	Auki Express	Auki/Return (2 Trips)	194
	Avaiki Maine	Auki/Return	200
Saturday	Vaka Solomon	Buala-Kia/return	30
	Marina II	Bunikalo thru Marovo to Gizo/return same route	211
Sunday	Fair Lady	Bunikalo thru Marovo to Gizo/return same route	472
<i>For information related to unscheduled vessels which operate on charter, please contact SIMA's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) at mrcc@solomon.com.sb or SIMA's Vessel inspection section at contact@sima.gov.sb</i>			

CONTACT & INFORMATION

All shipowners/operators are encouraged to provide feedback on this circular to the SIMA's Department of Shipping Operations and Safety to improve the safety of all at sea, clean seas, and vibrant maritime industry in the Solomon Islands.

Subsidiary laws (regulations and maritime orders) prescribe standards that apply to all vessels creating the same level-playing field in the Solomon Islands. These laws can be found at: <https://www.sima.gov.sb/acts-regulations/>.

For anything related to maritime safety, please contact Jonah Mitau, Manager of Shipping Operations and Safety at jonah.mitau@sima.gov.sb or visit SIMA's website at: <https://www.sima.gov.sb/>.