



SIMA

MARITIME AUTHORITY

SOLOMON ISLANDS

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>.

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