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Vessels information on the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels

SIOFA Secretariat

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Abstract						
This document summarizes the completion status of the information for the vessels registered on the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels. In 2023-2024, and after CMM 07 has been updated in 2022, several CCPs endeavoured to provide complete information for their vessels registered on the SIOFA RAV. To date only a few vessels have improper or missing information. Most of the issues are in relation to the photo's requirement.						

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Vessels information on the SIOFA Record of Authorized Vessels

Background and Rationale

According to CMM 07(2022) CCPs are required to provide several information relevant to the vessels they want to authorize for operating in the SIOFA area. Paragraph 02 of CMM 07 details the data that is required to be provided to the Secretariat (Annex 1 lists these details).

In 2022, at MoP9, paragraph 2 has been updated, and clarified that the vessels would be registered only if the information listed in subparagraph a. to s. have been submitted.

Several previously recorded vessels had incomplete data. These data have been mostly completed by the CCPs in 2023 and in 2024. However, to date, a few data items are still missing for some vessels or are not fully matching the requirements of the CMM.

This document summarizes the current completion status of the vessels recorded on the SIOFA RAV. Where information is incomplete, more details regarding this information is provided.

Method

The SIOFA vessels information is stored on a database at the Secretariat. Each information listed in paragraph 2 of CMM 07 and provided to the Secretariat, is recorded in a specific field.

For the vessel's photos, the provision of information has been split into 3 fields (one for the starboard photograph, one for the portside photograph and one for the stern photograph). Depending of the angle, if the entirety of the vessels is visible, the picture resolution, a 3-tiers adequacy assessment has been made by the Secretariat:

- Y: Photo is adequate (Yes)

- I: Photo is incorrect or incomplete (vessel is not completely showing, photo of low resolution/unfocused)

- N: Photo as not been provided

The requirement that the photo need to be recent (no older than 5 years old) is not assessed as the Secretariat cannot check that information unless the photo show a timestamp. There are no strict criteria relevant to the appropriate angle the photos should have with the vessel sides (see figure below), therefore most vessels side photos have been considered adequate.



A tier classification has also been made for a few other mixed information such as VMS details (brand, model, feature, and identifier) and Communication details (type and number). But assessing this data was more straightforward.

The database has been queried in May 2024 to retrieve all information and the assessments provided. The query has been used to report where data is either complete, incomplete, or missing.

Result

The general RAV query result provided in table 1 below (source SIOFA RAV, 16/05/2024)

Flag	Nb of	Nb of vessels with	Missing	No or Incorrect Photos		
	vessels	missing or incomplete	Plans	(N or I)		
	registered	information		STARB –	PORT –	STERN
Australia	5	0				
China	4	0				
Cook Islands	1	0				
Comoros	1	0				
EU	2	0				
France (OT)	6	0				
Japan	4	0				
Korea	6	0				
Mauritius	14	12	1	91	6 N, 4 I	51
Seychelles	2	0				
Chinese Taipei	62	0				
Thailand	2	0				

To date, only Mauritius has incomplete information for several of its vessels. Most of the issues are relevant to photos. The certified drawings or the description of all fish holds for one vessel is missing. The other CCP flagged vessels have the complete set of information required.

Access of the SIOFA RAV information on the SIOFA website

According to CMM 03(2016) (paragraph 2 a i), most of the data relevant to vessels is public information. Consequently, a public summary of the SIOFA RAV has been made available in the MCS section of the SIOFA website since the website has been developed. The public summary is a PDF document which provide with these details.

The other vessels data is not public (and not explicitly confidential), therefore more information has been made available on the SIOFA website as pages in restricted access in the MCS section. Note that due to the concern of a few CCPs, the VMS details have not been made available on the website.

Conclusion

Now, when a vessel is submitted by a flag state to the Secretariat for being recorded on the SIOFA RAV, the Secretariat checks if the information provided is aligned with the CMM recommendations. If the information is either incomplete, incorrect, or missing, the flag state is informed about it, and the Secretariat request that it is provided again according to the CMM requirements.

Waiting for the complete data to be provided, the vessel is not recorded on the SIOFA register of authorized vessels.

ANNEX A: CMM 07(2022) vessel information requirements (paragraph 2)

Information items in green bold are those defined as public in CMM 03(2016). Vessels images are publicly available (MoP10 report, paragraph 45).

- a. name of vessel, registration number, previous names (if known), and port of registry;
- b. previous flag (if any), using codes;
- c. International Radio Call Sign (if any);
- d. IMO Number (if required by IMO);
- e. name and address of owner or owners ⁽¹⁾;
- f. type of vessel (using appropriate ISSCFV codes);
- g. length and length type (e.g. LOA, LBP);
- h. name and address of operator (manager) or operators (managers) (if any)⁽¹⁾;
- i. type of fishing method or methods (using appropriate ISSCFG codes);
- j. gross tonnage (GT);
- k. power of main engine or engines (kw);
- l. Fish hold capacity (cubic metres);
- m. Freezer type (if applicable);
- n. Number of freezing units (if applicable);
- o. Freezing capacity (if applicable);
- p. Vessel communication types and numbers (e.g. INMARSAT A, B and C, VSAT numbers) ⁽¹⁾;
- q. certified drawings or description of all fish holds ⁽¹⁾;
- r. VMS system details (brand, model, features and identification) ⁽²⁾; and
- s. **Good quality, high resolution digital images of the vessel** of appropriate brightness and contrast, no older than 5 years old:
 - one digital image showing the starboard side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features.
 - one digital image showing the port side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features; and
 - one digital image of the stern taken directly from astern.
- ⁽¹⁾ Information provided in restricted access
- ⁽²⁾ Information not available on the website