



G-B INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL SHIPS REGISTRY OF GUINEA-BISSAU

Technical Service Circular Nr. 03/2022, 25.05.2022
IMO Developments



Subject: "Facilitation Committee (FAL 46), 9 to 13 May 2022 Highlights"

1. The IMO Facilitation Committee (FAL 46) 46th session was held remotely, from 9th to 13th of May 2022. The Committee's agenda key topics among others included the "Single Window" for ship data exchange to become mandatory under FAL treaty amendments, tackling maritime corruption & the IMO Compendium on Facilitation and Electronic Business. The Facilitation Convention was adopted in 1965 and contains standards and recommended practices and rules for simplifying formalities, documentary requirements, and procedures on ships' arrival, stay, and departure. Emphasis is attributed to the fact that the Convention has been updated continuously, embracing digitalization and automation for procedures
2. Of particular relevance according to the IMO Secretariat is the fact that IMO's Facilitation Committee has adopted **amendments to the Facilitation (FAL) Convention** which will make the single window for data exchange mandatory in ports around the world, marking a significant step in the acceleration of digitalization in shipping. The amendments to the annex of the Convention will make it mandatory for public authorities to establish, maintain and use single window systems for the electronic exchange of information required on arrival, stay, and departure of ships in ports. In addition, public authorities will have to combine or coordinate the electronic transmission of the data to ensure that information is submitted or provided only once and reused to the maximum extent possible.
3. Other amendments adopted include lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the amended Recommended Practices to prevent corruption and illicit activities in the maritime sector. The amendments adopted at the Facilitation Committee (FAL 46) session, are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2024.
4. Specialized executives of the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry participated in the FAL 46th session focusing on those standards and recommended practices and rules for simplifying formalities, documentary requirements, and procedures with relevance for the efficient operation of the G-B I.S.R.

Office of the General Ships Registrar



TSC IMO. 03/2022, Issue 01, Rev. 0, 25.05.2022

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