



Marine Notice Nr. 02/2025, 11/07/2025

Subject: “G-B I.S.R. Maritime Strategy for Flag State Implementation of IMO Instruments”

Ref. : Resolution A. 1070 (28), 10 December 2013, IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code)

To: Deputy Registrars, Recognized Organizations, Flag State Surveyors, Shipowners, Ship Operators, Ship Managers, and Ship Masters of the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry.

1. Purpose

1.1 This Marine Notice publishes the official strategy of the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry (G-B I.S.R.) for the implementation and enforcement of mandatory IMO instruments, developed in compliance with paragraph 3 **of the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code), resolution A.1070(28).**

1.2 The strategy applies to all delegated flag State functions performed by G-B I.S.R. on behalf of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, pursuant to legal authority granted by the Ministry of Transports, Telecommunications and Digital Economy.

2. Legal and Policy Framework

2.1 The G-B I.S.R. strategy has been developed under the legal and institutional structure established by:

- a. The Code of Operation of the G-B ISR, which consolidates national maritime legislation in alignment with IMO conventions;
- b. Formal delegation instruments issued by the competent Ministry;
- c. Administrative procedures, Marine Circulars, Marine Notices and Internal Standing Operations Procedures (SOPs) governing statutory certification, surveys, inspections, and investigations.

2.2 This framework ensures the transposition of international maritime treaties into enforceable operational protocols, covering SOLAS, MARPOL, STCW, LL, TONNAGE, and COLREG, among others.

3. Strategic Objectives and Structure

3.1 The G-B I.S.R. has defined three overarching strategic pillars that shape the operational execution of flag State functions:

a. Development of an Integrated Flag State Strategy

- I. Establishment of a **policy-level structure** for translating treaty obligations into national and registry-level practice;
- II. Clear division of responsibilities between G-B I.S.R. various divisions (Technical, Legal-IMO Instruments Implementation, Seafarers Certification (STCW), Maritime Operations, Registration,



Internal Evaluation & Compliance), sections (Casualty Investigation Section, Recognized Organizations Section) and units (Policy and Strategy Unit);

- III. Legal adoption of the strategy through endorsement by the Ministry, communicated to all departments and ROs;
- IV. Identification of core implementation needs, including systems, qualified personnel, facilities, and institutional relationships;
- V. Support through international engagement, including the IMO Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) and the establishment of a Permanent Mission to the IMO, as per guidance of the competent Ministry.

b. Implementation Monitoring and Organizational Performance Evaluation

- a. Introduction of a **performance-based methodology** centered on:
 - a. Flag State KPI tracking (survey compliance, PSC records, STCW processing timelines);
 - b. Structured oversight of Recognized Organizations (ROs) through audit reports, performance scorecards, and various Normative Documents relevant to the reporting regime;
 - c. Technical and legal review of flag State endorsements and equivalencies;
 - d. Monitoring of Flag State Inspectors, guided by standardized inspection templates and appointment protocols.
- b. Results are evaluated under the overall authority of the General Ships Registrar Office and discussed in management review meetings, forming the basis for policy adjustment.

c. Continuous Strategic Review and Improvement

- a. Implementation of an internal strategic review mechanism, integrating:
 - a. PSC and casualty investigation data,
 - b. Non-conformity reports,
 - c. Feedback from ROs, shipowners, and surveyors/inspectors,
 - d. IMO audit preparation outcomes.
- b. Establishment of a Strategic Review Register, with scheduled annual performance reviews;
- c. Ongoing coordination with national authorities to support legislative updates and improve institutional capacity;
- d. Integration of observations from participation in IMO activity participation and technical workshops into Registry development planning.

4. Communication and Engagement

4.1 In accordance with paragraph 9 of the III Code, the strategy and its implementation framework are to be formally communicated to all relevant stakeholders, including:

- a. Internal divisions and sections of the G-B I.S.R.;
- b. Authorized Recognized Organizations and Flag State Surveyors/Inspectors;
- c. The Ministry of Transports, Telecommunications and Digital Economy of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau;

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- d. The maritime industry, via publication on the official website: <https://www.gbistr.com>.
- e. Guinea-Bissau Permanent Mission to the IMO.

4.2 Communication channels include:

- a. Official correspondence and stakeholder briefings;
- b. Email circulars, SOPs, and audit summaries;
- c. Participation in ITCP and IMO-led collaborative activities.

5. Monitoring and Review Methodology

5.1 The methodology to **monitor and evaluate** this strategy includes:

- a. Use of qualitative and quantitative KPIs, recorded quarterly;
- b. Dedicated strategic performance reviews conducted under the oversight of the General Ships Registrar;
- c. Tracking implementation results through GISIS module usage, circular issuance, RO compliance, and surveyor reporting;
- d. Internal audit findings, when applicable, will form the baseline for measuring conformity and identifying gaps.

5.2 For **continuous review**, the Registry applies a feedback-driven approach:

- a. Strategy is revisited annually or upon recommendation following major audit findings or incident investigations;
- b. Adjustments are implemented through updated Marine Notices, Marine Circulars, revised SOPs, or policy briefings to the Ministry and the IMO Acting Permanent Representative.

6. Conclusion

6.1 This strategy affirms the G-B I.S.R.'s commitment to the principles of the III Code and ensures a proactive, transparent, and accountable approach to the performance of its delegated flag State responsibilities. It is subject to ongoing review and will evolve in parallel with the Registry's institutional development and the national administration's maritime governance goals.

For the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry

Authorized Signatory:

Office of the General Ships Registrar



Attached

Appendix I, Implementation Framework for the G-B I.S.R. Maritime Strategy under the III Code.



Appendix I
Implementation Framework for the G-B I.S.R. Maritime Strategy under the III Code

1. Strategic Alignment with the III Code

1.1 The Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry (G-B I.S.R.) adopts this appendix to demonstrate the structured alignment of its flag State implementation functions with the principles, structure, and mandatory obligations outlined in the IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code), Resolution A.1070(28). As per paragraph 3 of the III Code, the present Strategy and this Appendix are designed to guide all divisions, Recognized Organizations (ROs), and stakeholders in meeting the State's responsibilities under international maritime conventions.

2. Scope and Delegated Flag State Functions

2.1 G-B I.S.R., under the formal delegation of authority from the Ministry of Transports, Telecommunications and Digital Economy of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, exercises flag State responsibilities including:

- a. Registration of ships and issuance of national and international certificates;
- b. Oversight of Recognized Organizations performing delegated surveys and certifications;
- c. Monitoring and approval of STCW endorsements for foreign certificates under Regulation I/10;
- d. Coordination and review of Flag State Inspections, carried out globally by appointed Surveyors and Inspectors;
- e. Response to Port State Control (PSC) actions and detention cases;
- f. Investigation of marine casualties and safety incidents;
- g. Communication of information to IMO through GISIS and reporting channels.

2.2 These functions are executed with reference to the G-B I.S.R. Code of Operation of G-B I.S.R., applicable Normative Documents, and associated Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs).

3. Strategic Integration and Performance Evaluation

3.1 In alignment with paragraphs 42–44 of the III Code, G-B I.S.R. applies a performance-based monitoring system covering:

- a. Port State Control detention/inspection rates;
- b. Effectiveness of flag State inspections ;
- c. STCW endorsement quality control;
- d. Marine casualty and incident recording and follow-up;
- e. Internal reviews and risk-based performance evaluations;
- f. Oversight of Recognized Organizations, including audits and performance metrics;

3.2 These indicators are evaluated bi-annually and integrated into policy adjustments through management review meetings under the overall coordination of the General Ships Registrar.



4. Capacity Development and Technical Support

4.1 G-B I.S.R. is actively engaged in strengthening institutional capacity for sustainable flag State implementation by:

- a. Maintaining an expanding network of appointed Flag State Inspectors/ Surveyors across strategic maritime regions;
- b. Developing and updating Normative Documents and Standing Operational Procedures for consistent application of international standards;
- c. Participating in the IMO Technical Cooperation Programme and seeking advisory assistance through IMO/IMSAS follow-up tools;
- d. Further expanding its close cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the IMO in coordination with national authorities.

5. Transparency, Communication, and Continuous Improvement

5.1 As mandated by paragraph 9 of the III Code, this Strategy and Appendix are communicated to:

- a. All internal departments and designated Flag State Surveyors;
- b. All Recognized Organizations through formal correspondence and shared platforms;
- c. The national Administration via the Ministry of Transports, Telecommunication and Digital Economy of Guinea-Bissau;
- d. IMO through GISIS entries and the Acting Permanent Representative;
- e. The broader maritime community via public access on the official website: <https://www.gbistr.com>.
- f. Guinea-Bissau Permanent Mission to the IMO

5.2 Strategic reviews are scheduled annually and revised as needed following major audits or implementation reviews.

This Appendix shall be read in conjunction with Marine Notice 02/2025 and forms part of the Guinea-Bissau International Ships Registry's operational commitment to uphold the III Code and ensure high-quality, transparent, and accountable flag State performance.