

## **ANNEX F: Letter from the USCG to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Regarding MODU Code Equivalence**

A-89

U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
  
United States  
Coast Guard



COMMANDANT  
United States Coast Guard

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AUG 09 2002

Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Office of the Maritime Administrator  
Attn: David L. Crede  
11495 Commerce Park Drive  
Reston, VA 20191-1507

Dear Mr. Crede:

Pursuant to your letter of August 23, 2000, my staff has compared "The Republic of the Marshall Islands' Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Standards", Publication MI-293 (Rev. 8/00), to the 1979 and 1989 editions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) MODU Code. The MI-293 standards were also compared against U.S. requirements for existing MODUs (units constructed before December 31, 1981). These comparisons were for the purpose of determining whether the Marshall Islands' MODU Standards provide a level of safety that is generally equivalent to the applicable international and U.S. requirements to operate on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). I have determined that the provisions of Marshall Islands' publication MI-293 establishes a standard equivalent to that found in national and international instruments per Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 3-88, Change 1, as long as the requirements contained in the supplement for Marshall Islands' flagged MODUs (enclosure 1) is also complied with.

Therefore, a Marshall Islands' MODU Safety Certificate issued under the provisions of Publication MI-293 (Rev. 8/00) for units constructed on or after December 31, 1981, will be considered evidence of compliance with international and U.S. Coast Guard requirements under 33 CFR 143.207(c) and 33 CFR 146.205(c). Likewise, a Marshall Islands' MODU Document of Compliance issued under the provisions of Publication MI-293 (Rev. 8/00) for units constructed before December 31, 1981, will be considered evidence of compliance U.S. Coast Guard requirements under 33 CFR 143.207(b) and 33 CFR 146.205(b). Therefore, any unit in possession of a Marshall Islands' MODU Safety Certificate or Document of Compliance that also meets the requirements identified in the enclosure (1) supplement is eligible for a Coast Guard Certificate of Compliance (COC) to operate on the U.S. OCS.

Prior to COC issuance, a unit is subject to inspection by the Officer in Charge Marine Inspection (OCMI) to ensure compliance with all applicable standards as well as with the enclosed supplement. We recognize that there may be circumstances that require flexibility and the use of discretion in the application of certain inspection and equipment standards that are not specifically addressed in Publication MI-293. In these instances, the Marshall Islands shall notify G-MOC before deviating from the requirements outlined in MI-293 (Rev. 8/00).

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Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Subj: MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNIT STANDARDS

A copy of this letter with enclosures shall be aboard any MODU documented under the laws of the Marshall Islands while operating on the U.S. OCS. All Coast Guard Area, District and Marine Safety Offices have been notified via copy of this letter with enclosures. If you have any questions, please contact my G-MOC-2 staff at the phone number listed above.

Sincerely,

  
J. A. SERVIDIO  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard  
Chief, Office of Compliance  
By direction

Encl: (1) Supplement for Marshall Islands Flagged MODUs  
(2) The Republic of the Marshall Islands' Publication MI-293 (Rev. 8/00)

Copy to: CG Districts  
MSOs

**Supplement for Marshall Islands Flagged MODUs**

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MODUs possessing a valid Marshall Islands' MODU Safety Certificate or Document of Compliance issued in accordance with the Republic of the Marshall Islands "Mobile Offshore Drilling Units Standards", Publication MI-293 (Rev. 8/00) must also meet the requirements identified below before a COC will be issued to engage in operations on the U.S. OCS. Compliance with these requirements will be verified at the discretion of the OCMI to which application for a COC has been made.

1. All units shall comply with the applicable provisions of Title 33 CFR Subchapter N – Outer Continental Shelf Activities. This includes but is not limited to inspections, investigations, citizenship requirements and restrictions on employment, workplace safety and health, operational requirements for foreign MODUs.
2. All units shall comply with the applicable provisions of Title 33 CFR Subchapter O – Pollution. This includes but is not limited to the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, MARPOL 73/78, IOPP, shipboard oil pollution emergency plans, operations and testing requirements, placards, records and logs, oil transfer procedures and marine sanitation devices (MSDs).
3. All units shall comply with the applicable provisions of Title 33 CFR Part 164 – Navigation Safety Regulations. This includes but is not limited to charts, publications, navigation equipment, and testing maintenance and reporting requirements.
4. Testing and Inspection of Pressure Vessels and Relief Valves – Pressure vessels shall be internally examined once every five years and relief valves shall be tested twice in five years with no interval more than three years in accordance with 46 CFR 61.10 and G-MOC Policy Letter 01-03.
5. Additional Lifesaving Equipment – All units shall comply with the additional lifesaving requirements of 46 CFR 108.503. Drillships not in possession of a valid MODU Safety Certificate (1989) shall comply with the requirements of 46 CFR Subchapter W.
6. Maintenance, Testing & Inspection of Lifesaving Equipment – All units shall comply with the maintenance, testing and inspection requirements of 46 CFR 109.301. All required maintenance, tests and inspections shall be documented.
7. Testing & Inspection of Fire Fighting Equipment – All units shall ensure that each hand and semi portable fire extinguisher, fixed fire-extinguishing system and gas detection system shall be tested and inspected annually in accordance with the requirements of 46 CFR 109.223. All required tests and inspections shall be documented.
8. Hospital Space, First Aid Kit & Litter – All units carrying 12 or more persons on a voyage more than three days shall have a dedicated hospital space on board that complies 46 CFR 108.209 or 46 CFR 108.210. All units shall have a first aid kit on board that complies with

**ENCLOSURE(1)**

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46 CFR 108.707. All units shall have a litter on board capable of being used on the type of helicopter that service the unit in accordance with the requirements of 46 CFR 108.709

9. Hazardous Locations – All units shall comply with the electrical wiring materials and methods required by 46 CFR 111.60 for the hazardous locations listed in 46 CFR 111.105-33
10. The OCMI may require a unit to carry specialized or additional equipment if the conditions, arrangement or service of the unit present uniquely hazardous circumstances that are not adequately addressed by existing requirements or standards.