

Circular Ref: 2024/006

Circulated to Insureds, Brokers, Consultants and P&I Clubs

Date: 23rd December 2024

Subject: Latest Advisory on OPA90 COFR Application Processing Times

Dear Clients and Brokers,

We wish to provide you with an important update regarding recent guidance received from the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) concerning ongoing delays in the processing times for OPA90 Certificates of Financial Responsibility (COFR). This communication serves as a follow-up to our previous [Circular Ref: 2024/002](#) dated August 13, 2024.

Key Information:

- **Resource Challenges:** The USCG examiners and processing staff are currently facing technical limitations and are working with degraded systems that they had expected to be upgraded by November 2024. Despite these challenges, they remain committed to supporting you and us throughout the COFR application process at this time.
- **Processing Timeline:** We are advised that it is imperative to allow a minimum of 21 days for processing after the NPFC receives your application. To avoid any potential entry delays into U.S. waters, we strongly advise submitting applications at least 21 days in advance of your vessel's intended arrival date.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** All applications must comply with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Non-compliance may result in applicants facing the responsibility for any ensuing issues, including potential denials of entry to U.S. ports.

Important Note:

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we collaborate closely with the NPFC to ensure a smooth and efficient processing of COFR applications.

Should you have any questions or require additional assistance, please do not hesitate to [reach out](#) to us.

Thank you for your business and continued support and trust in Shoreline and MISL.

Yours sincerely,



Captain Thomas Brown
Chief Executive Officer - Shoreline Ltd.