



The Bahamas Maritime Authority

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 101

Application of Mandatory and Non - Mandatory Requirements

Guidance and Instructions for Ship-owners, Managers, Masters, Bahamas Recognised Organisations, Builders and Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors

Note: This Bulletin supersedes the previous BMA Information Bulletin no. 101

1. Introduction

This Bulletin is intended to give guidance on the technical standards which are to be applied to ships to Bahamian ships. All previous communications concerning this subject are hereby cancelled. The standards to be applied are set out below.

2. General

2.1. The technical requirements for Bahamian ships are the applicable:

- International Conventions of International Maritime Organisation (IMO),
- International Labour Organisation (ILO), and
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

together with Amendments and mandatory Resolutions that have been adopted and which have been enacted through the Bahamas Merchant Shipping Act.

The Conventions ratified by the Government of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas which apply to Bahamian ships are listed in the Annex to this Bulletin.

2.2. Recognised Organisations, as part of their authorisation, are required to support and implement where practicable, non-mandatory international requirements when performing approval, survey, audit and certification.

- 2.3. In applying standards Bahamas Recognised Organisations must take account any relevant interpretation, clarification or other advice issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) in any BMA Information Bulletins or in the Bahamas National Requirements.
- 2.4. In the absence of such BMA issued direction, IMO guidance, contained in IMO Resolutions and Circulars must be considered. In the absence of either flag State or IMO guidance, relevant technical standards of the Recognised Organisation, including IACS Unified Requirements, Unified Interpretations, Procedural Requirements, etc. must be considered. The Bahamas expects that Owners, Managers and Builders will also take the above into account.

3. Carriage Requirements

- 3.1. The carriage of printed or digital copies of the documents referred to in 2 above onboard Bahamian registered ships is not, in general, mandatory. However Owners and Managers are reminded that it remains their responsibility, under the obligations placed upon the Company by the ISM Code, to ensure that members of the shipboard management team are knowledgeable in the conventions that relate to their duties. In this regard, it is expected that the full text of these documents will be available on board for reference in either hard copy or digital form.
- 3.2. The Bahamas also recommends that Owners and Managers of Bahamian ships adopt the practices contained in applicable non-mandatory Resolutions and Circulars that provide alternatives to, and clarifications of, the requirements contained in the Conventions and Codes.
- 3.3. Bahamas-specific interpretations and/or instructions relating to the application of the international conventions and other requirements are given in the:
- BMA Information Bulletins,
 - “Bahamas National Requirements”,

Copies of all these documents – in either hard copy or digital form - are to be maintained for immediate reference onboard every Bahamian vessel and in every shore office.

- 3.4. The attention of all parties is drawn to the availability of the Conventions and Codes from the IMO Publication Department (Fax no: +44 20 7587 3241, email: publications-sales@imo.org and most nautical publishers/bookshops.
- 3.5. IMO Committees/Sub-Committees Circulars are available from the IMO website: www.imo.org/Circulars

Annex

International Conventions Ratified by The Commonwealth of The Bahamas

1. International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules relating to the Arrest of Sea-Going Ships, 1952
2. Convention on the International Maritime Satellite Organisation (INMARSAT), 1976
3. Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FACILITATION), 1965, as amended
4. International Convention on Load Lines (LL), 1966 and the 1988 Protocol
5. International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships (TONNAGE), 1969
6. International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution damage, 1969 (CLC) and the Protocols of 1976 and 1992
7. International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in cases of Oil Pollution Casualties (INTERVENTION), 1969 and the Protocol of 1973
8. International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (FUND), 1971, Protocol of 1976 and Protocol of 1992
9. Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS), 1972
10. International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC), 1972
11. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 Annex I, II, III, V and Protocol of 1997, Annex VI
12. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1960
13. International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 as amended and the Protocols of 1978 and 1988.
14. Athens Convention Relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea (PAL), 1974 and 1976 Protocol
15. International Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims (LLMC), 1976
16. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended
17. International Telecommunication Convention (Montreux), 1965 and the Radio Regulations, 1968
18. International Health Regulations (Geneva), 1969
19. Minimum Age (Sea) Convention, 1920 (ILO No. 7)
20. Seaman's Articles of Agreement Convention, 1926 (ILO No. 22)
21. Accommodation of Crew Convention (Revised), 1949 (ILO No. 92)
22. Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976 (ILO No. 147)
23. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA), 1988 and the 1988 Protocol
24. International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC), 1990
25. International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001 (AFS Convention)
26. International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (Bunker Convention)