



The Bahamas Maritime Authority

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 08

APPLICATION FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM, EXTENSION OF, AND/OR ACCEPTANCE OF AN EQUIVALENT ARRANGEMENT TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION REQUIREMENT

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

*Note: This Bulletin supersedes the previous BMA Information Bulletin no. 8 and
replaces Instruction to Classification Societies no. 11.*

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Bulletin is to outline the procedure pertaining to the application for:

- i) Exemption from an international convention requirement;
- ii) Acceptance of an equivalent arrangement to an international convention requirement;
- iii) Extension of statutory survey period or validity of certificate under an international convention; or
- iv) Postponement of a survey, servicing period, or any other applicable international requirement.

2. Procedure

2.1 All of the above noted requests shall in the first instance be addressed to the Recognised Organisation or body which issued the relevant certificate. Information supplied with the application should be inclusive of, but not limited to, the following:

- Reason and justification for application
- Time period requested
- Safety measures that have been or will be introduced
- Supporting documentation
- Details of ship's schedule should a verification survey be required

- 2.2 Recognised Organisations shall review applications prior to submitting an outcome of their assessment to the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA). The assessment shall, amongst other things, take into consideration:
- Provisions contained in any applicable international Convention, Code or IMO Circular;
 - Any relevant Bahamas requirements;
 - Reason and justification for application;
 - Urgency of the application.
- 2.3 Any request for acceptance of equivalent arrangement shall contain full details of the safety case conducted by the Owner/Manager, using the relevant IMO methodology wherever possible, such as in IMO Circulars MSC/Circ. 1002, MSC.1/Circ.1212, etc.
- 2.4 In their submission to the BMA, the Recognised Organisation shall clearly indicate their support or reservation of any aspect of the application, and if relevant, any recommendation(s) and/or conditions that should be considered. All submissions shall be in a written format although if time constraints dictate, verbal submissions may be accepted on the proviso that the assessment is conducted and any agreement formally documented to the BMA at the earliest opportunity. The BMA will notify the Recognised Organisation of its decision and/or any comments.

3. BMA Approval

- 3.1 If the BMA approves an application, Recognised Organisations shall ensure that the conditions, if any, under which the approval was accepted are endorsed either on the existing affected statutory certificate or on the new certificate, or that an appropriate certificate is issued in accordance with the Recognised Organisation's established procedures.
- 3.2 All decisions taken by the BMA shall be treated on a case-by-case basis, and are not a general approval unless otherwise stated by the BMA.