



The Bahamas Maritime Authority

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 74

CONTINUED OPERATION OF CATEGORY 2 & 3 TANKERS UNDER MARPOL ANNEX I

**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. 74 and replaces Instruction to Classification Societies no. 22. The Bulletin is to be read in conjunction with IMO Circular MEPC/Circ.437.

1. Introduction

This Bulletin gives guidance on the measures in place for the consideration of applications for the continued operation of Category 2 and Category 3 tankers registered with The Bahamas.

2. General

- 2.1 Category 2 and Category 3 tankers may be allowed to continue operation under the provisions of MARPOL Annex I Regulations 20 and 21, subject to the approval of the Administration. All Bahamian vessels are allowed to continue trading under those provisions, notwithstanding the right of other States to refuse admission to those vessels. The Bahamas' position is also reflected in IMO Circular MEPC/Circ.437.
- 2.2 It is important that all vessels applying to the Recognised Organisation (RO) for amended Form B of the IOPP supplement must be brought to the attention of the BMA before the Form B is issued.
- 2.3 Measures are set out below to ensure that each vessel, having the benefit of life extension under the mentioned MARPOL provisions, continues to be well maintained throughout the extended life of the vessel.

3. Notification and review

- 3.1 Notification from the RO is requested, together with construction details (relevant to the provisions of the regulations) and clarification as to which specific regulation is to be applied.
- 3.2 Upon receipt of notification from the RO, the BMA will carry out a vessel review. This will take an overview of the management as well as structural condition. Vessels found with deficiencies during BMA annual inspections, unsatisfactory ISM audits or unsatisfactory port state control record or with outstanding Condition of Class or Class recommendation will be subject to particularly close scrutiny.
- 3.3 If the result of the review is unsatisfactory, outstanding issues are to be resolved by communication between BMA Technical Department, RO and the vessel's Manager. If an amended Form B is agreed to be issued, such vessels may be required to subsequently comply with conditions which will be set by the BMA.

4. Issue of Form B

Agreement for the issue of IOPP supplement Form B will be given to the RO by the BMA only after the conclusion of a satisfactory review.

5. Continuing Review

- 5.1 Effective monitoring of condition is necessary to ensure satisfactory vessel maintenance. IOPP certification may remain valid only pending satisfactory periodical vessel review by the BMA.
- 5.2 RO are advised that structural deficiencies or equipment deficiencies directly affecting the safe operation of the vessel must be rectified at the earliest opportunity. In order to achieve this objective, Conditions of Class or Recommendations are to be made for the minimum practicable period but may not be extended without approval from the BMA.
- 5.3 ISM issuing bodies are requested to notify the BMA of any failure to make repairs to the vessel and its equipment in a timely manner and in particular deficiencies found under Section 10 of the ISM Code.