



# The Bahamas Maritime Authority

## BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 89

### COMPETENT PERSON CARRYING OUT DUTIES IN CONNECTION WITH INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND TESTING OF SHIPS' APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT

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

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#### 1. General

- 1.1 There are many circumstances where inspection, maintenance and testing of appliances and equipment, whether on board ship or ashore, is required to be carried out by a "competent person".
- 1.2 It is clearly the responsibility of the vessel Manager ("Company" as defined in the ISM Code) to ensure that all such duties are carried out by suitably trained, qualified and experienced personnel, irrespective of the wording contained in some regulations or guidelines, which can sometimes be misleading.
- 1.3 Being strongly supportive of the principles contained within the ISM Code, the Bahamas Maritime Authority applies those relevant principles in relation to any person employed by the Company (either crew or contractors) to carry out inspection, maintenance or testing of any ship's appliances and equipment.

#### 2. Definition of a competent person

A "competent person" is one who has achieved a level of technical skill (incorporating theoretical knowledge and practical experience) to be able to complete a task or activity safely and to the specified standard.

### **3. Obligations of the ship Manager**

- 3.1 The Company with responsibility for management of the ship under the requirements of the ISM Code is responsible for assessing and selecting a suitable “competent person”. Appropriate procedures relating to this activity must be established within the Safety Management System. Documentary evidence of personnel competence must be available on board for verification by Bahamas Approved Inspectors and Recognised Organisations.
- 3.2 For shipboard personnel deemed to be “competent persons” for specific duties, Managers are to keep records as to how such technical skill has been achieved, e.g. by training, study and assessment, etc.

### **4. Application**

Where competent persons are defined or otherwise referred to in Bahamas Merchant Shipping Regulations, IMO or other statutory documentation, this Bulletin shall apply, except where a specific higher standard of competence is set out in the original document.