



## INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 07

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### Emergency Response Officer

#### Guidance and Instructions for Bahamas Recognised Organisations, Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers and Masters

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#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Bulletin provides guidance on access to the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) in the case of a genuine emergency and should be read in conjunction with BMA Information Bulletin No. 02.

#### 2. Normal office hours

The BMA's normal office hours are, with the exception of the dates referenced in section 4 below, Monday to Friday:

London:	09:30 - 17:30	
Nassau:	09:00 - 17:00	(1400 – 2200 UTC)
New York:	09:00 - 17:00	(1400 – 2200 UTC)
Hong Kong	09.30 – 17.30	(0130 – 0930 UTC)

#### 3. Emergency contact when offices are closed

- 3.1. When BMA offices are closed and in cases of a genuine emergency, the Emergency Response Officer's mobile telephone number is:

**+44 (0)7977 471 220**

- 3.2. This number is intended for use in emergencies and must not be used for routine matters which can be handled within the normal office hours listed in paragraph 2 above. Please refer to BMA Information Bulletin No.2 for details of public holidays.

- 3.3. Companies<sup>1</sup> operating Bahamian ships and Masters of Bahamian ships are requested to note that the BMA Emergency Response Officer's contact number is only to be used in the case of a genuine emergency.
- 3.4. Examples of an emergency are as follows:
- Fire, flooding, serious grounding or pollution casualty;
  - Accident, including any collision, resulting in structural damage to the ship or serious personal injury or death;
  - Maritime security emergencies including hijack, terrorist attack, piracy, any incident involving the use of firearms, any bomb threat, any use or threat of use of force or incidents under the ISPS Code requiring flag State intervention;
  - Incidents of similar gravity, requiring immediate flag State response.
- 3.5. It is to be noted that any aspect of statutory survey and certification (or associated deficiency), including non-compliance identified during a port State inspection, does not constitute an emergency. In such non-emergency cases, the Company should liaise directly with the party that issued the affected certificate.
- 3.6. Recognised Organisations shall be guided by the BMA procedures for applications for exemptions, extensions and/or acceptance of equivalent arrangements.
- 3.7. The Emergency Response Officer is unable to issue a Certified Receipt of Application (CRA) in connection with applications received for Bahamas STCW endorsements.
- 3.8. In rare cases where the Emergency Response number is not answered immediately, the caller is requested to leave a voicemail message at the prompt with a contact name and telephone number. The Emergency Response Officer will return the call as soon as possible.

#### **4. Revision History**

Rev.2 (16 January 2013) – General revision

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<sup>1</sup> The "Company" is the entity responsible for the management of the ship in accordance with the ISM Code. For ships which the ISM Code is not applicable, the Company is the Managing Owner in accordance with Section 52 of the Bahamas Merchant Shipping Act.