



TECHNICAL ALERT No. 15-15

Passenger Registration Systems on Passenger Ships calling at Ports within the European Union

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The European Union introduced Council Directive No.98/41/EC on 18 June 1998 (the Directive). The Directive concerns the "Registration of Persons Sailing on Board Passenger Ships".
- 1.2. Article 8 of the Directive requires the Company¹ to establish a passenger registration system on board passenger ships trading to/from European Union (EU) ports and Article 10 requires the passenger registration system to be approved by "the member states".
- 1.3. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) has recently received a number of requests from companies requesting that the BMA approves their passenger registration systems in accordance with the Directive.

2. Passenger Registration System

- 2.1. Bahamian passenger ships are required to comply with the provisions of the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended (SOLAS). Regulation 27 of Chapter III of SOLAS requires a system to be in place to count, record and keep ashore details of all passengers embarked on board a passenger ship prior to departure.
- 2.2. Documentary evidence of on board compliance with the SOLAS requirements is maintained through possession of a valid Passenger Ship Safety Certificate and the Company operating the affected ship shall have implemented the requirements in its Safety Management System.

¹ The "Company" means the owner or any other organisation or person, such as the manager, or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed responsibility for the operation of the ship.

- 2.3. The BMA considers that the Directive is supplemental to the requirements of SOLAS III/27 and is only applicable to ships trading to/from EU member states. Compliance with the Directive is an additional EU coastal State requirement in excess of SOLAS requirements.
- 2.4. The Bahamas is not an EU member State. Therefore, the BMA is not required, nor is it able to, approve passenger registration systems for compliance with the Directive.
- 2.5. For passenger ships registered in The Bahamas, the BMA notes that approval of the EU passenger registration system may be undertaken by:
 - i. A Maritime Administration of an EU member State to which the vessel has previously operated; or
 - ii. The Maritime Administration of the EU member State at which the ship is currently located.
- 2.6. Affected Companies should liaise with the Maritime Administration of EU member States to which their ships are trading or intend to trade in order to obtain the necessary approval and certification.
- 2.7. Companies who are experiencing difficulties in obtaining the required EU approval document may contact the BMA to assist in engagement with the affected EU member State(s).

3. Validity

- 3.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

4. Revision History

Rev.0 (19 June 2015) – First issue