



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 29

Emergency Escape Breathing Devices (EEBDs)

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Bulletin outlines the carriage and maintenance requirements for EEBDs.
- 1.2. This Bulletin should be read in conjunction with the following International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee Circulars:
 - i. MSC/Circ.849, *Guidelines for the performance, location, use, and care of emergency escape breathing devices (EEBDs)*;
 - ii. MSC/Circ.1081, *Unified interpretation of the revised SOLAS Chapter II-2*; and
 - iii. MSC.1/Circ.1432, *Revised guidelines for the maintenance and inspection of fire protection systems and appliances*.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Bulletin applies to all Bahamian ships and offshore units to which SOLAS applies.
- 2.2. Offshore units certified under the 1979, 1989 or 2009 Code for the Construction and Equipment of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODU Code) shall be provided with EEBDs as if they were SOLAS certified.

3. General

- 3.1. All EEBDs shall comply with the requirements specified in Chapter 3.2.2 of the Fire Safety Systems Code.

- 3.2. The number and location of all EEBDs shall be indicated on the fire control plan.

4. Carriage Requirements

- 4.1. SOLAS Chapter II-2, Regulation 13.3.4 specifies the following minimum carriage requirement for EEBDs in accommodation spaces:
- i. Cargo ships: 2 EEBDs;
 - ii. Passenger ships carrying not more than 36 passengers : 2 EEBDs in each main vertical zone;
 - iii. Passenger ships carrying more than 36 passengers: 4 EEBDs in each main vertical zone.
- 4.2. The number of EEBDs to be provided in the machinery spaces is not specified in SOLAS, however guidance is provided in MSC/Circ.1081.
- 4.3. The Bahamas Maritime Authority requires the Company¹ to carry out a risk assessment to determine the location and number of EEBDs required in the machinery spaces. The risk assessment must take into account the size and layout of the machinery spaces, number of persons normally present, the length of the escape routes and any other relevant factors. Unless personnel are individually carrying EEBDs, consideration should be given to placing EEBDs along the escape routes within the machinery spaces or at the foot of each escape ladder within the space. In addition, control spaces and workshops located within the machinery spaces should also be considered for the possible location of EEBDs.
- 4.4. The number and location of EEBDs identified by the risk assessment is to be agreed with the Recognised Organisation responsible for the issue of statutory certificates on behalf of the BMA.
- 4.5. In the event that the Company and Recognised Organisation cannot reach agreement on the location and numbers of EEBDs to be provided in the machinery spaces, the BMA will act as the final arbiter.
- 4.6. All ships shall carry spare EEBDs that shall be located in a control station. Cargo ships and offshore units shall carry a minimum of 1 spare EEBD and passenger ships shall carry a minimum of 2 spare EEBDs.

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

- 4.7. In order to satisfy the SOLAS requirements for on-board training in the use of EEBDs, the vessel shall have either:
- i. at least one separate EEBD clearly marked as designated for training; or
 - ii. facilities to re-instate the EEBD that was used during the training exercise to a fully operational condition (such as means of recharging the cylinder to full operating pressure).
- 4.8. With respect to Bahamian ships carrying dangerous chemicals in bulk, the BMA will permit the carriage of the emergency equipment specified in either paragraph 14.3.1 of the *International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying dangerous Chemicals in Bulk* (IBC Code) or paragraph 3.16.10 of the *Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk* (BCH Code), in lieu of EEBDs.
- 4.9. With respect to Bahamian ships carrying liquefied gases in bulk, the BMA will permit the carriage of the emergency equipment specified in paragraph 14.4.2 of the *International Code for The Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk 1983*, as amended (IGC Code), in lieu of EEBDs.

5. Inspection and Testing

- 5.1. All EEBDs shall be inspected by a competent person² at least annually.
- 5.2. Maintenance and servicing of EEBDs shall be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 5.3. Hydrostatic pressure testing of EEBD cylinders shall be undertaken at least once every five years, or in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions if such testing is required on a more frequent basis. The test pressure and test date shall be clearly and permanently marked on the cylinder.
- 5.4. Where EEBDs are fitted with a small capacity oxygen cartridge and manufacturers specify a fixed service life without scheduled hydrostatic pressure testing (e.g. "Ocenco" M-20.2), hydrostatic testing is not required.

² A competent person is a person 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. Refer to BMA Information Bulletin No. 89

6. Records

- 6.1. Records of inspection, maintenance and testing shall be retained on board for examination. The records must include the test certificates and the inspection status of each cylinder.

7. Survey Requirements

- 7.1. During Safety Equipment surveys the Recognised Organisation shall verify that:
- i. the manufacturer's instructions for the EEBDs are provided and are readily available on board;
 - ii. the EEBDs have been inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and this Bulletin;
 - iii. the records of inspection, maintenance and testing are available and up to date;
 - iv. spare EEBDs are provided in accordance with paragraph 4.6.
- 7.2. Recognised Organisations shall notify the BMA, with relevant recommendations, when a Bahamian ship does not satisfy the requirements for periodical inspections and testing or carriage of spares, prior to the issue or endorsement of a Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, Passenger Ship Safety Certificate or any other statutory certificate that relates to safety equipment (e.g. MODU/MOU Safety certificates).

8. Revision History

Rev.4 (17 August 2015) – General editorial revision

Rev.3 (21 February 2011) – Revision of number of spare EEBDs to be carried