

---

---

## **Competent Persons**

Notice to ship owners, managers, Masters, Approved Nautical Inspectors, Recognised Organisations and surveyors

*This Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.89*

---

---

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this Marine Notice is to provide the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) requirements for the selection of “competent persons” carrying out duties in connection with inspection, maintenance and testing of ship’s appliances and equipment.

### **2. Application**

- 2.1. This document applies where competent persons are defined or otherwise referred to in Bahamas legislation, International Maritime Organization (IMO) or other statutory instruments, except where a specific higher standard of competence is set out in the original document.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1. 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”.
- 3.2. It is clearly the responsibility of the Company<sup>1</sup> 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.
- 3.3. Being strongly supportive of the principles contained within the ISM Code, the BMA applies those principles in relation to any person employed by the Company (either

---

<sup>1</sup> The “Company” is the entity responsible for the management of the ship in accordance with the ISM code. For ship to which the ISM code is not applicable, the Company is the “Managing Owner” in accordance with the Merchant shipping act.

crew or contractors) to carry out inspection, maintenance or testing of any ship's appliances and equipment.

#### **4. Definition of a competent person**

- 4.1. 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.

#### **5. Obligations of the Company**

- 5.1. 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 Company's Safety Management System. Documentary evidence of personnel competence must be available on board for verification by Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors and Recognised Organisations.
- 5.2. For shipboard personnel deemed to be "competent persons" for specific duties, the Company is to keep records as to how such technical skill has been achieved and maintained, e.g., by training, study and assessment, etc.
- 5.3. Any queries in relation to this Notice may be addressed by email to [tech@bahamasmaritime.com](mailto:tech@bahamasmaritime.com) or by contacting any BMA office.

### Revision History

| Version | Description of Revision |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 1.0     | First Issue             |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |
|         |                         |