



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 89

Competent Persons carrying out duties in connection with inspection, maintenance and testing of ships' appliances and equipment

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This bulletin gives the Bahamas Maritime Authority's (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 Bulletin applies where competent persons are defined or otherwise referred to in Bahamas Merchant Shipping Regulations, International Maritime Organisation (IMO) or other statutory documentation, 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 Company¹ 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 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.

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.

6. Revision History

Rev.1 (XX August 2015) – Complete revision, addition of section 1, "Purpose"

Rev.0 (27 September 2011) – First issue

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