



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 149

BMA Technical & Safety Alerts

Guidance for Bahamas Recognised Organisations, Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors, Ship Owners, Managers, Masters & Seafarers

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Bulletin describes the system of "BMA Technical Alerts" and "BMA Safety Alerts" issued by The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA).

2. Background

- 2.1. The BMA introduced "BMA Technical Alerts" in 2013. BMA Technical Alerts were intended to:
- i. Bring important but short term information from the BMA to the attention of Bahamian ship owners, managers, Masters and crews;
 - ii. Bring guidance and information issued by third parties to the attention of Bahamian ship owners, managers, Masters and crews;
 - iii. Provide details of incidents and lessons learnt;
 - iv. Increase awareness of a particular topic or area.
- 2.2. Since 2013, the number of BMA Technical Alerts issued has continued to increase, many of which refer to third party information on safety incidents.
- 2.3. As a result, a new category of alert, called "BMA Safety Alerts" will be introduced in 2017, which will address incidents and lessons learnt and will include current third party alerts issued by the International Marine Contractors' Association (IMCA) and Marine Safety Forum (MSF).

3. BMA Technical Alerts

- 3.1. From 01 January 2017, BMA Technical Alerts are intended to:
- i. Bring important but short term information from the BMA to the attention of Bahamian ship owners, managers, Masters and crews;
 - ii. Bring relevant technical guidance and information issued by third parties to the attention of Bahamian ship owners, managers, Masters and crews;
 - iii. Increase awareness of a particular topic or area.
- 3.2. Notwithstanding the provisions of ISM Code Para.1.2.3.2, any recommendations made in third party information referenced in a BMA Technical Alert have no mandatory application for Bahamian ships. Where such recommendations are mandated by the BMA they will be advised via the existing BMA Information Bulletins and/or the Bahamas National Requirements.
- 3.3. The use of BMA Technical Alerts is voluntary and the Company¹ should determine which, if any, of the Alerts it distributes to its ships and offices.
- 3.4. The BMA does not require relevant BMA Technical Alerts to be held by the Company or on board in the flag State file². The Company may, however, do so for ease of reference.
- 3.5. Third party information referenced in BMA Technical Alerts is provided in good faith and may not apply to all sectors of the industry. Any queries or comments on third party information should be directed to the party providing the information.
- 3.6. The following existing Technical Alerts will be transferred to the BMA Safety Alert system from 01 January 2017:
- i. Technical Alert 13-02;
 - ii. Technical Alert 15-04;
 - iii. Technical Alert 15-31;
 - iv. Technical Alert 16-57;
 - v. All Technical Alerts related to IMCA Safety Flashes and MSF Safety Alerts (consolidated to end 2016).

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 Please refer to BMA Information Bulletin No. 23, Para. 3.6.vii and Bahamas National Requirements, Para. 4.10.6

4. BMA Safety Alerts

- 4.1. From 01 January 2017, BMA Safety Alerts will be introduced and are intended to:
 - i. Bring safety guidance and information issued by third parties to the attention of Bahamian ship owners, managers, Masters and crews;
 - ii. Provide details of incidents and lessons learnt;
 - iii. Increase awareness of a particular topic or area.
- 4.2. Notwithstanding the provisions of ISM Code Para.1.2.3.2, any recommendations made in third party information referenced in a BMA Safety Alert have no mandatory application for Bahamian ships. Where such recommendations are mandated by the BMA they will be advised via the existing BMA Information Bulletins and/or the Bahamas National Requirements.
- 4.3. The use of BMA Safety Alerts is voluntary and the Company should determine which, if any, of the Alerts it distributes to its ships and offices.
- 4.4. The BMA does not require relevant BMA Safety Alerts to be held by the Company or on board in the flag State file. The Company may, however, do so for ease of reference.
- 4.5. Third party information referenced in BMA Safety Alerts is provided in good faith and may not apply to all sectors of the industry. Any queries or comments on third party information should be directed to the party providing the information.

5. Revision History

Rev.1 (16 December 2016) – Complete revision & new section 4

Rev.0 (02 May 2013) – First issue