



INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 184

Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear (MSC.402(96))

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Bulletin is to introduce the requirements of the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) for issuing and maintaining authorisation to service providers¹ for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, as required by Regulation 20 of Chapter III of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended (SOLAS Chapter III), following the adoption of Resolution MSC.402(96) by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- 1.2. The Bulletin introduces eligibility criteria and a certification scheme for service providers aiming to be listed as a Bahamas Authorised Service Provider (BASP).
- 1.3. This bulletin should be read in conjunction with IMO resolutions MSC.402(96)² and MSC.404(96)³; Circular MSC.1/Circ.1578⁴ and BMA Information Bulletin No.72⁵.

¹ "Authorised Service Provider" means an entity authorised by the Administration in accordance with sections 3 and 7 of MSC.402(96) and can be a manufacturer or third-party service provider.

² [MSC.402\(96\) Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats, rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear](#)

³ [MSC.404\(96\) Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended](#)

⁴ [MSC.1-Circ.1578.pdf](#)

⁵ [BMA Information Bulletin No.72](#)

1.4. This Bulletin supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.87.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Bulletin applies to service providers who intend to conduct repairs, overhauls, annual and 5-yearly thorough examination, service and testing of the following equipment fitted on board Bahamian flagged ships:
- i. Lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats; and
 - ii. Launching appliances (including primary and secondary means of launching appliance for freefall), and release gear for all lifeboats type, rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit launched liferafts
- 2.2. Weekly and monthly inspections are normally conducted by a competent person⁶, in accordance with the maintenance manual(s), and such activities do not require BMA authorisation.

3. Background

- 3.1. In 2016, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee adopted amendments to Regulation 20 of SOLAS Chapter III to establish mandatory requirements related to maintenance, testing and overhaul of lifeboats, rescue boats, fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear including those serving davit launched liferafts.
- 3.2. Resolution MSC.402(96), adopted on 19 May 2016 and entering into force on **01 January 2020**, revokes Circular MSC.1/Circ.1206 and sets provisions for servicing of equipment listed in paragraph 2.1 including procedures for flag State authorisation of service providers.

4. Requirements

- 4.1. Commencing 01 January 2020, service providers intending to undertake the services listed in paragraph 2.1 on Bahamian ships shall be in possession of a Bahamas Approved Service Provider (BASP) Certificate of Authorisation, issued by the BMA.
- 4.2. It is the responsibility of the Company⁷ to ensure that servicing, testing and repairs of equipment listed in paragraph 2.1 is carried out only by BASPs

⁶ Please refer to [BMA Information Bulletin No.89](#)

⁷ 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

holding a valid Certificate of Authorisation issued by the BMA from 01 January 2020, subject to the transitional period described in paragraph 4.3.

- 4.3. The BMA accepts service providers approved under resolution MSC.402(96) or equivalent⁸ by a Bahamas Recognised Organisation⁹ for a transitional period between 01 January 2020 and 30 June 2020.
- 4.4. Service providers must have a Certificate of Authorisation issued by the BMA to undertake servicing on Bahamas flagged vessels on or after 01 July 2020.
- 4.5. The Company may perform the annual thorough examinations and operational tests outlined in Regulation 20 of SOLAS Chapter III, provided they are authorised by the BMA as a BASP for makes and types of equipment to be serviced.
- 4.6. BASPs that perform routine¹⁰ servicing or repairs must be authorised by the BMA for each make and type of equipment to be serviced, in accordance with the specified criteria of minimum capabilities, education, training and quality system requirements.
- 4.7. A simplified flowchart of the requirements is provided in Annex 1.
- 4.8. A list of BASPs is provided at: <https://bahamasmaritime.com>
- 4.9. All inspections, maintenance, repairs, overhauls, thorough examinations and operational tests shall be performed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and the provisions of section 6 of MSC.402(96).
- 4.10. Where the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) is no longer in business and there is no access to spare parts, the Company, in cooperation with the Recognised Organisation that classes the ship, should undertake to locate a service provider capable of supplying spare parts manufactured, inspected and tested to the original maker's specification and make an appropriate proposal to the BMA for consideration.
- 4.11. The BMA recognises that there are different interpretations with regard to definitions of "make and type" of the equipment. For the purpose of issuing

⁸ MSC.1/Circ.1277, IACS UR UZ17 as amended.

⁹ See [BMA Information Bulletin No.3](#)

¹⁰ Annual Thorough examinations, operational tests, fire-year thorough examination, any overhaul and overload operational tests as stated in this Bulletin.

the Certificate of Authorisation, "make" should refer to the name of the OEM or entity authorised by the manufacturer for production of the equipment (e.g. MANUF01) and "type" refers to a specific model, type, series or range of equipment (e.g. Model XYZ or series XYZ or range XYZ).

- 4.12. The BMA reserves the right to conduct investigations or additional audits where there is evidence that the BASP may not be in compliance with the conditions upon which its authorisation has been issued. All costs associated with such investigations or audits will be charged to the BASP.
- 4.13. As part of the authorisation and verification, the BMA may request that the BASP provides its documentation related to previous services, including vessel name, IMO number and list of equipment serviced.

5. BASP applications

- 5.1. To obtain a BASP Certificate of Authorisation, the applicant shall [download](#) and complete the application form. The application shall be submitted via email to tech@bahamasmaritime.com using the subject "MSC402(96) Service Provider Application Request".
- 5.2. The applicant shall attach the following information and copies of relevant documents:
- i. Valid Quality Management System certification or evidence of an equivalent Quality Management System;
 - ii. Evidence of personnel education and training standards;
 - iii. Evidence of previous authorisations or long-term experience and expertise demonstrated as a service provider;
 - iv. Evidence of resources available to perform the job to which the applicant wishes to be authorised, including maker's specific equipment information, service and repair manuals, access to spare parts and replacement components;
 - v. Proof of relevant training for the specific equipment or equivalent related material.

6. BASP certification

- 6.1. The BASP Certificate of Authorisation issued by the BMA is valid for three (3) years.
- 6.2. Renewal applications shall be made within three (3) months of the expiry date of the existing Certificate of Authorisation.
- 6.3. The Certificate of Authorisation issued by the BMA will only reflect the authorised service provider's company name but will not list its personnel.
- 6.4. Where a renewal application is not received prior to the expiry of a Certificate of Authorisation, the Certificate will expire and the BASP will be removed from the list of BASPs.
- 6.5. The attending Recognised Organisation surveyor shall verify that BASPs engaged in conducting repair or service are in possession of a valid Certificate of Authorisation for the specific make and type of the equipment.
- 6.6. The Recognised Organisation surveyor shall record and attach within their survey report the following details:
 - i. BASP details and the Certificate Number for the Certificate of Authorisation issued by the BMA;
 - ii. A statement, letter or report, issued by the attending BASP who has conducted the work, confirming that the arrangements remain fit for purpose.

7. BASP logo

- 7.1. When a BASP has been issued with a Certificate of Authorisation, it may use the appropriate BASP logo.
- 7.2. The BMA will provide the BASP logo upon request. Requests should be made to tech@bahamasmaritime.com.
- 7.3. Any unauthorised use of the BASP logo or trademarks is strictly prohibited.

8. Fees

8.1. Fees for the issuance of a BASP Certificate of Authorisation are as follows:

Application Type	Fee
New OEM applicant for servicing of <u>own equipment only</u> ¹¹	\$150
New OEM applicant for servicing of other equipment	\$300
New applicant holding an authorisation from a Bahamas Recognised Organisation	\$300
New applicant that does NOT hold authorisation from a Bahamas Recognised Organisation	\$600
New applicant authorised solely by another Flag State Administration	\$600
Ship Operator authorisation	\$300
Renewal of current Bahamas Certificate of Authorisation	\$150
Amendment to existing Bahamas Certificate of Authorisation	\$50 per amendment ¹²

9. Revision History

Rev.0 (19 December 2019) – First issue

¹¹ OEM wishing to obtain authorisation for any equipment other than their own shall apply as new applicant.

¹² up to a maximum of \$150

Annex 1 Authorisation Flow Chart

