



The Bahamas Maritime Authority

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 93

CODE OF SAFETY FOR DIVING SYSTEMS

**Guidance and Instructions for Ship-owners, Managers, Masters,
Bahamas Recognised Organisations and Bahamas Approved Nautical
Inspectors**

*Note: This Bulletin replaces BMA Instruction to Classification Societies no. 17.
The Bulletin is to be read in conjunction with IMO Resolutions
A.583(14), A.692(17) and A.831(19).*

1. Introduction

This Bulletin gives guidance on the technical requirements and certification of diving systems on Bahamian registered ships.

2. General

2.1 IMO Resolution A.831(19) "Code of Safety for Diving Systems" 1995 provides minimum standards for design, construction and survey of fixed diving systems, which may also be applied to temporary diving systems fitted on board vessels. The Resolution is based upon IMO Resolution A.536(13) referred to in SOLAS Annex 2 (Documents and Certificates to be carried on board) as amended by Resolution A.583(14). In addition, IMO Resolution A.692(17) provides Guidelines and Specifications for Hyperbaric Evacuation Systems referred to in Chapter 3 of the Code of Safety for Diving Systems, 1995.

2.2 Internationally recognised standards are therefore available to be applied to diving systems on board ships, through IMO Resolution A.831(19) for Diving Systems and IMO Resolution A.692(17) for Hyperbaric Evacuation Systems.

- 2.3 Where a vessel is fitted with a diving system which is not included for survey under Classification Society rules, The Bahamas requires that minimum standards are applied to diving systems on board Bahamian registered ships based upon compliance with the above resolutions.

3. Requirement

- 3.1 Vessels with fixed or temporary diving systems fitted on or after 01 November 2004, which are not included for survey under Classification Society rules, shall comply with the Code of Safety for Diving Systems, 1995, as amended, including the Guidelines and Specifications for Hyperbaric Evacuation Systems, as applicable.
- 3.2 Vessels with existing fixed or temporary diving systems fitted before 01 November 2004, which are not included for survey under Classification Society rules, shall comply with the Code of Safety for Diving Systems, 1995, as amended, including the Guidelines and Specifications for Hyperbaric Evacuation Systems, as applicable, not later than the completion date of the current contract or by due date of the next Safety Construction Renewal Survey, whichever is sooner.

4. Certification

Certificates may be issued upon satisfactory verification of compliance, following the model given in the Appendix to the Code.

5. Exceptions

Vessels not complying with the requirements and applying for an exemption, extension or equivalent arrangement shall be processed in accordance with the procedures detailed in BMA Information Bulletin no. 8.