Version No. 1.1

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Competent Persons

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

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 the applicable legislation, convention, code, standard or guidance document prescribes a specific qualification, certification, approval or authorisation for the person or service provider carrying out the activity.

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 the responsibility of the Company[1] 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 interpreted as permitting persons without appropriate training, qualifications or experience to undertake such duties.

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

[1] The 'Company' is the entity responsible for the operation and management of the ship in accordance with the ISM Code (SOLAS Chapter IX), as applied under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2021. Where the ISM Code is not applicable, the Company is the entity recorded as responsible for the operation of the ship in accordance with regulation 5(3)(d) of the Merchant Shipping (Registration) Regulations, 2026.

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 attained and can demonstrate a level of technical competence, incorporating appropriate theoretical knowledge, practical experience and, where applicable, formal qualifications, sufficient to perform the required task or activity safely and to the specified standard.

4.2. Competence shall be assessed in relation to the specific task or activity and, where applicable, the specific appliance or equipment concerned. Competence in one area does not, of itself, demonstrate competence in another.

5. Obligations of the Company

5.1. The Company is responsible for assessing and selecting suitable competent persons.

5.2. Appropriate documented procedures for the assessment and selection of competent persons shall be established within the Company's Safety Management System or, where the ISM Code is not applicable, within the Company's documented procedures for the operation of the ship.

5.3. Documentary evidence of the competence, qualifications and, where applicable, certification, approval or authorisation of personnel acting as competent persons must be available on board for verification by Bahamas Inspectors and Recognised Organisations.

5.4. For shipboard personnel deemed to be competent persons for specific duties, the Company shall keep records demonstrating how the required competence has been achieved and maintained, including, as appropriate, through training, study, practical experience and assessment.

6. Queries

6.1. Any queries on this Notice may be addressed to tech@bahamasmaritime.com or any BMA office.

Revision History

Version	Description of Revision
1.0	First Issue
1.1	Updated the definition of the Company to reflect the Merchant Shipping Act, 2021, the Merchant Shipping (Registration) Regulations, 2026 and current application of the ISM Code. Clarified competence requirements, Company responsibilities, documented procedures and evidential requirements for competent persons, and updated the enquiries section.