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## Marine Notices, Information Notices & Yacht Notices

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

*This Marine Notice replaces BMA Information Bulletin No.1*

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Marine Notice (MN) describes the system of documents issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA).

### 2. Introduction

- 2.1. The BMA introduced BMA Information Bulletins in 1997 to support the Merchant Shipping Act.
- 2.2. Over time, Information Bulletins have been expanded in scope and many now contain a combination of instructions, requirements, guidance and information.
- 2.3. To improve clarity, the BMA has decided to reorganise the information currently provided in Information Bulletins into Marine Notices and Information Notices.
- 2.4. In addition, information relating to yachts will be provided separately in Yacht Notices (YN).
- 2.5. As existing Information Bulletins are replaced, their content will be reallocated to the relevant Marine Notice (MN), Information Notice (IN), or Yacht Notice (YN) depending on what the Bulletin originally contained.
- 2.6. Existing Information Bulletins will continue to be valid until they are replaced by an MN, IN or YN.
- 2.7. MNs, INs and YNs when published will contain a reference in the header to any Bulletin that has been incorporated.

- 2.8. A cross-reference table of Bulletins to MN/IN/YN, with the status of revision, is available to download [here](#). This document is updated when new MN/IN/YN are published.
- 2.9. MNs, INs and YNs are numbered sequentially. MNs, INs or YNs on specific topics will retain the same MN, IN or YN number, with subsequent revisions being identified by their version number.
- 2.10. It should be noted that specific MN, IN and YN numbers may be reserved for future use (e.g. where referenced in legislation) so they may not be published in numerical order.
- 2.11. Any printed copies of MNs, Ins and YNs, or copies downloaded from the BMA website, are uncontrolled – the BMA website should be checked for the effective version of any MN, IN or YN.
- 2.12. The purpose of each document type is outlined below.

### **3. Marine Notices (MNs)**

- 3.1. The purpose of Marine Notices is to provide instructions and requirements in support of Bahamas legislation.
- 3.2. MNs are mandatory and must be followed by all parties to which the MN applies.

### **4. Information Notices (INs)**

- 4.1. The purpose of Information Notices is to provide information and guidance in support of Bahamas legislation and Marine Notices.
- 4.2. INs are non-mandatory, but it is recommended that they are followed by all parties to which the IN applies.

### **5. Yacht Notices (YNs)**

- 5.1. The purpose of Yacht Notices is to provide information and guidance in support of the Bahamas Yacht Code and Bahamas Passenger Yacht Code.
- 5.2. YNs are to be followed by all parties to which the YN applies.

## **6. Use and Retention of Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices**

- 6.1. Companies<sup>1</sup> shall ensure that the contents of Marine Notices, Information Notices and/or Yacht Notices that are relevant to their operations are incorporated into their safety management system
- 6.2. Where specific BMA Information Bulletins are currently referred to in the safety management system etc., that reference should be read in conjunction with the cross-reference table described in paragraph 2.8. Companies should ensure that all references to BMA Information Bulletins in internal documents are replaced with reference to the relevant MN/IN/YN by not later than 31 December 2025.
- 6.3. A full list of all Bulletins and their corresponding MN/IN/YN is provided in the Annex to this Notice for reference. Note that this list does not identify which documents have been reissued as MN/IN/YN – this is provided in the cross-reference table referred to in paragraph 2.8.
- 6.4. Copies of relevant documents, in their latest revision, shall be retained on board all Bahamian registered ships and offshore units in a “Flag State file”, either in hard copy or electronically. Companies shall also maintain copies of the relevant documents in their office(s).
- 6.5. Recognised Organisations must ensure that the contents of relevant Notices are incorporated in their procedures relating to their Bahamas delegation.
- 6.6. BMA Approved Nautical Inspectors must ensure that they are familiar with the contents of relevant Notices during their period of appointment.
- 6.7. All Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices include an “effective date”, from which the Notice is effective. All Company Safety Management Systems, Recognised Organisation instructions to surveyors and Bahamas Nautical Inspectors procedures shall incorporate and implement applicable Notices from the effective date stated in the Notice.

## **7. Distribution of Marine Notices and Information Notices**

- 7.1. Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices are not provided in hard copy, but are available on the BMA website <https://www.bahamasmaritime.com>.

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<sup>1</sup> The “Company” is the entity responsible for the management of the ship in accordance with the ISM Code. For ships which the ISM Code is not applicable, the Company is the Managing Owner in accordance with section 52 of the Merchant Shipping Act (Ch.268).

- 7.2. Notification of the addition, or revision, of Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices is sent by email to:
- i. the current Designated Person Ashore (for ships to which the ISM Code applies) or the Manager (as listed on BMA Form R104);
  - ii. Recognised Organisation's central contact point;
  - iii. Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors; and
  - iv. users on the mailing list.
- 7.3. It should be noted that, as the emails are distributed via a mailing list, the BMA cannot guarantee that notifications will be able to pass through all company firewalls.
- 7.4. Email addresses can be added to the mailing list using the sign-up form on the BMA website <http://bahamasmaritime.com/sign-up.php>. If the email address is invalid or an email sent to the address is rejected, the email address will automatically be removed from the list.
- 7.5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 7.2, it is the responsibility of all companies and Bahamas Nautical Inspectors to regularly review the BMA website for the latest revisions of Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices and ensure that these are implemented accordingly.

## **8. Bahamas National Requirements**

- 8.1. The Bahamas National Requirements (BNR) was first published in 2007 as a reference source for BMA requirements and interpretations.
- 8.2. Where a topic that is currently included in the BNR is also addressed in a new MN, the content from the BNR will be transferred to the MN. The relevant section of the BNR will then be simplified to provide a link to the relevant MN.
- 8.3. MNs will contain a reference in the header to any section of the BNR that has been incorporated.



| <b>Information Bulletin No.</b> | <b>MN/IN/YN No.</b> | <b>Subject</b>  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1                               | MN01                | Marine Notices, Information Notices & Yacht Notices                                     |
| 2                               | IN01                | Dates for Bahamas Assessments of Officer Candidates                                     |
| 3                               | MN02                | Authorised Classification Societies   |
| 4                               | MN04                | Incident Reporting Procedures   |
|                                 | MN05                | Environmental Reporting   |
| 5                               | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 6                               | MN45                | GMDSS EPIRB registration  |
| 7                               | IN06                | Emergency response officer  |
| 8                               | MN08                | Applications for exemptions from or extensions to international Convention requirements |
| 9                               | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 10                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 11                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 12                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 13                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 14                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 15                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 16                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 17                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 18                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 19                              | IN07                | Commissioning of INMARSAT terminals and issue of MMSI numbers                           |
| 20                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |

| <b>Information Bulletin No.</b> | <b>MN/IN/YN No.</b> | <b>Subject</b>  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 21                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 22                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 23                              | MN46                | ISM Code  |
| 24                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 25                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 26                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 27                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 28                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 29                              | MN81                | Emergency escape breathing devices                                      |
| 30                              | IN03                | References to STCW 95 in certificates, endorsements and other documents |
| 31                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 32                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 33                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 34                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 35                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 36                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 37                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 388                             | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 39                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 40                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |

| <b>Information Bulletin No.</b> | <b>MN/IN/YN No.</b> | <b>Subject</b>  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 41                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 42                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 43                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 44                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 45                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 46                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 47                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 48                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 49                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 50                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 51                              | MN87                | ECDIS, nautical charts and publications: carriage and updating requirements |
| 52                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 53                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 54                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 55                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 56                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 57                              | MN48                | Continuous synopsis records   |
| 58                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 59                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 60                              | -                   | Withdrawn   |



| <b>Information Bulletin No.</b> | <b>MN/IN/YN No.</b> | <b>Subject</b>                                  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 61                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 62                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 63                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 64                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 65                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 66                              | MN91                | Bahamas flag State inspections                  |
| 67                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 68                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 69                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 70                              | MN47                | SOLAS Chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code            |
| 71                              | MN90                | Approval (certification) of marine equipment    |
| 72                              | MN82                | Enhancing lifeboat safety during drills         |
| 73                              | MN75                | Periodical bottom inspection of passenger ships |
| 74                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 75                              | MN61                | MARPOL Annex VI                                 |
| 76                              | MN85                | Carriage of immersion suits                     |
| 77                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 78                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 79                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |
| 80                              | -                   | Withdrawn                                       |

| <b>Information Bulletin No.</b> | <b>MN/IN/YN No.</b> | <b>Subject</b>   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 81                              | MN50                | BMA fee schedule   |
| 82                              | -                   | Withdrawn  |
| 83                              | -                   | Withdrawn  |
| 84                              | MN56                | Oil record books   |
| 85                              | MN93                | Port State control inspections   |
| 86                              | MN12                | Approval of STCW training  |
| 87                              | -                   | Withdrawn  |
| 88                              | -                   | Withdrawn  |
| 89                              | MN89                | Competent persons  |
| 90                              | MN58                | MARPOL Annex II – carriage of vegetable oils   |
| 91                              | -                   | Withdrawn  |
| 92                              | -                   | Withdrawn  |
| 93                              | MN73                | Code of safety for diving systems  |
| 94                              | MN57                | Application of MARPOL Annex I to FPSO/FSU  |
| 95                              | -                   | Withdrawn  |
| 96                              | MN78                | Maintaining passenger ship watertight doors open during navigation   |
| 97                              | MN79                | Firefighting equipment   |
| 98                              | MN06                | Servicing of inflatable lifesaving appliances  |
| 99                              | MN77                | Survey and inspection of ships of less than 500 gross tonnage operating solely within the Caribbean Trading Area |
| 100                             | MN82                | LSA fall wires   |

| <b>Information Bulletin No.</b> | <b>MN/IN/YN No.</b> | <b>Subject</b>   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 101                             | MN54                | Conventions to which The Bahamas is a Party  |
| 102                             | YN04<br>YN06        | Yachts 24m and above   |
| 103                             | MN28                | Seafarer medical examinations and certificates   |
| 104                             | MN14                | Bahamas certificate of competency  |
| 105                             | MN15                | Guidance on manning, training & certification for the offshore industry                          |
| 106                             | MN16                | Tanker training and certificates/endorsements  |
| 107                             | MN29                | Record of employment, Bahamas seaman's record book and certificate of discharge                  |
| 108                             | MN17                | Bahamas flag State endorsements  |
| 109                             | MN48                | IMO unique company and registered owner identification number                                    |
| 111                             | MN49                | LRIT   |
| 112                             | MN67                | International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage (Bunkers Convention) |
| 113                             | -                   | Withdrawn  |
| 114                             | MN55                | UN sanctions   |
| 115                             | MN18                | Safe manning requirements  |
| 116                             | IN10                | LRIT testing ASPs  |
| 117                             | MN82                | Fall preventer devices   |
| 118                             | MN27                | Security training, instruction and certification   |
| 119                             | MN71                | Piracy and armed robbery against ships   |
| 120                             | MN94                | PSC detentions   |
| 121                             | MN13                | STCW recognised countries  |

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|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 122                             | MN11                | Laid up ships  |
| 123                             | MN64                | HCFC refrigerants  |
| 124                             | IN04                | Bahamas seafarer application form  |
| 126                             | IN11                | MARPOL Annex VI record book  |
| 127                             | MN31                | Maritime Labour Convention 2006  |
| 128                             | MN72                | Guidance to shipowners on carriage of armed personnel for vessel protection              |
| 129                             | MN19                | STCW 2010 amendments   |
| 130                             | MN20                | Training, instruction and certification requirements for persons on board Bahamian ships |
| 133                             | YN03<br>YN05        | Yachts of less than 24m  |
| 134                             | -                   | Withdrawn  |
| 135                             | MN21                | Passenger ship training and certification  |
| 136                             | MN92                | Enhanced monitoring programme  |
| 137                             | IN15                | BORIS seafarer applications  |
| 138                             | MN44                | ECDIS training requirements  |
| 139                             | MN39                | MLC accommodation  |
| 140                             | MN32                | Minimum age of seafarers   |
| 141                             | MN33                | MLC on board complaints procedure  |
| 142                             | MN34                | Seafarer employment agreement and articles of agreement                                  |
| 143                             | MN30                | MLC guidelines for flag State inspection and certification                               |
| 144                             | MN35                | Hours of rest  |

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|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 145                             | MN36                | Management of occupational health & safety   |
| 146                             | MN37                | Ship's cook  |
| 147                             | MN38                | MLC recruitment and placement services   |
| 148                             | MN40                | Medical care onboard   |
|                                 | MN42                | Shipowner liability and social security  |
| 149                             | IN12                | BMA technical and safety alerts  |
| 150                             | MN80                | Inspection and testing of automatic sprinkler systems  |
| 151                             | MN26                | Safety familiarisation and basic training, instruction and certification   |
| 152                             | MN51                | BMA publications   |
| 153                             | MN22                | Guidance on the issue of Bahamas national certificates under STCW Chapter IV as GMDSS radio operator and STCH Chapters II & III as rating or able seafarer |
| 154                             | IN09                | Passenger ship windows, side scuttles, storm covers and deadlights   |
| 155                             | MN69                | IUU fishing and authorisation to conduct transshipment operations  |
| 156                             | MN70                | Guidance on the assessment for a Bahamas certificate of competency as an officer under STCW Chapter II and III   |
| 157                             | MN68                | Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007  |
| 158                             | MN25                | Carriage, Training and Certification of Electro-Technical Officer and or Electro-Technical Rating  |
| 159                             | MN74                | Manned submersible craft   |
| 160                             | IN13                | Guidance on large scale rescue operations at sea   |
| 161                             | MN43                | MLC 2006 financial security  |
| 162                             | MN23                | Training and Certification Requirements for Seafarer Sailing on Ships Subject to the IGF Code  |
| 163                             | MN70                | Requirements for refrigerated cargo ships carrying frozen fishery products to European Union countries   |

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|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 164                             | MN66                | International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage 1992 (CLC Convention)  |
| 165                             | MN65                | International Convention for Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (Ballast Water Management Convention) |
| 166                             | MN59                | MARPOL Annex IV   |
| 167                             | MN88                | Polar Code  |
| 168                             | MN24                | Training and Certification Requirements for Persons sailing on board Bahamian ships subject to the Polar Code                         |
| 169                             | MN60                | Garbage record books  |
| 170                             | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 171                             | IN08                | Control and management of ships' biofouling   |
| 172                             | MN63                | Fuel consumption data collection and recording  |
| 173                             | MN09                | Electronic record keeping systems   |
| 174                             | MN84                | Marine evacuation systems   |
| 175                             | MN53                | Electronic statutory certificates   |
| 176                             | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 177                             | MN52                | Data protection   |
| 178                             | MN86                | SOLAS alternative design and arrangements   |
| 179                             | MN03                | Safe Return to Port   |
| 180                             | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| 181                             | MN71                | Guidance for ships operating in or near the Gulf of Oman, Strait of Hormuz and Persian Gulf   |
| 182                             | IN02                | Application of MARPOL in Bahamian waters – archipelagic baselines Bahamas Archipelagic Baselines                                      |
| 183                             | MN62                | MARPOL Annex VI – global fuel oil sulphur limit   |

| <b>Information Bulletin No.</b>  | <b>MN/IN/YN No.</b> | <b>Subject</b>  |
|--|---------------------|---|
| 184  | MN83                | Requirements for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear (MSC.402(96)) |
| 185  | -                   | Withdrawn   |
| <b>The documents listed below were not previously issued as Information Bulletins but are included for completeness.</b> |                     |   |
| -  | MN07                | Inventory of Hazardous Materials - Statements of Compliance   |
| -  | MN10                | MARPOL Electronic Record Books  |
| -  | MN41                | Medical Stores  |
| -  | MN76                | Cargo ship Extended Drydocking Scheme   |
| -  | MN95                | Cyber Security  |
| -  | MN96                | Remote Statutory Surveys, Audits and Inspections  |
| -  | IN14                | Port State Control - Recurring Deficiencies   |
| -  | IN16                | Restarting passenger operations   |
| -  | IN17                | Calculation of minimum wages  |
| -  | IN18                | Pilot boarding arrangements   |
| -  | IN19                | Minimum Requirements for Seafarer Photographs and Signatures  |
| -  | IN20                | Marriage on Bahamian ships  |
|  |                     |   |
|  |                     |   |