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## **Application of MARPOL Annex I to FPSOs, FSOs, FSRUs, FLNGs and similar units**

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

*This Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.94*

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### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. This Marine Notice (MN) describes the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) requirements on the application of Annex I of the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended (MARPOL Annex I) to Floating Production, Storage and Offloading Units (FPSOs), Floating Production Units (FPUs), Floating Storage Units (FSU/FSO), Floating Storage and Regasification Units (FSRUs), Floating LNG Production units (FLNGs) and similar units.

### **2. Application**

- 2.1. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Resolution [MEPC.311\(73\) 2018 Guidelines for the application of revised MARPOL Annex I requirements to Floating Production, Storage and Offloading Facilities \(FPSOs\) and Floating Storage Units \(FSUs\)](#) shall apply in its entirety to FPSOs and FSUs.
- 2.2. The BMA applies the provisions of the Resolution to other floating production and/or storage units such as FSRUs, FLNGs, etc., involved in the exploration, exploitation or associated offshore processing of sea-bed mineral resources when operating permanently at a fixed single location..

### **3. General**

- 3.1. Existing offshore units with arrangements that were historically agreed to under the provisions of IMO Circular MEPC/Circ.406 or Resolution MEPC.139(53), as amended, shall continue to operate in compliance with the originally agreed conditions. Such units do not need to undergo any modifications or upgrades where the requirements of MEPC.311(73) differ from the originally agreed conditions.

- 3.2. Consideration will be given to situations where offshore support ships of other types than those listed in 2.1 and 2.2 may be involved in the exploration, exploitation or associated offshore processing of sea-bed mineral resources on a long-term basis<sup>1</sup>. Where, in the Company's<sup>2</sup> opinion, meeting the provisions of Regulations 14 and 15 of MARPOL Annex I may be problematic or impracticable, the BMA may consider applying the same approach as indicated in Annex 1 to MEPC.311(73). An application shall be submitted to the BMA by the Recognised Organisation (Classification Society) of such ships for consideration.
- 3.3. All specific provisions or arrangements, including dispensations, exemptions, exceptions and/or equivalent arrangements, accepted on the basis of the provisions outlined above, shall be considered as being granted by the BMA for the duration of the unit, or ship, operation at an agreed fixed single off-shore location, except for the specific situations outlined in paragraph 9 of MEPC.311(73). This may also include, in case of a ship of other types than those in 2.1 and 2.2 above, short voyages to a designated port, or location within the same jurisdiction for repairs and/or stores or project equipment procurement.
- 3.4. Applications for dispensations, exemptions, exceptions and/or equivalent arrangements shall be submitted to the BMA for consideration on a case by case basis, in accordance with BMA Marine Notice 05 or 08, as applicable.
- 3.5. As outlined above, existing units do not need to be upgraded to comply with the provisions of MEPC.311(73) where this would require structural changes. However Recognised Organisations are reminded that the provisions should be taken into consideration, wherever practicable, when carrying out retrofit or modifications of equipment and structure of existing units.
- 3.6. It is noted that Enhanced Survey Programme (ESP) requirements, IMO Resolution A.1049(27), as amended, are referred to in the Resolution as a means of ensuring that a satisfactory survey regime is implemented for such units. It is also noted that a continuous hull survey is often better suited to these units' mode of operation.
- 3.7. The robustness and scope of the Classification survey requirements of Bahamas Recognised Organisations are considered to be an acceptable means of ensuring a satisfactory standard of structural integrity. The Bahamas therefore agrees that the Classification Society hull survey may deviate from the requirements of ESP, while taking account of those requirements wherever practicable.

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<sup>1</sup> "Long-term basis" means a duration of operations of at least 1 year at a fixed location without undertaking any voyages to any ports or other locations.

<sup>2</sup> 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

#### **4. Certification**

- 4.1. The Bahamas recognises that the amended Record of Construction and Equipment in Annex 2 of the Resolution is appropriate to be used for FPSOs and FSUs. Recognised Organisations are requested to use this to replace forms A and B of the International Oil Pollution Prevention (IOPP) Certificate supplement for units to which the Resolution applies, from the first IOPP renewal survey on or after 01 March 2022.
- 4.2. In the case of other ship types as indicated in paragraph 3.2, the format of the IOPP Certificate and its Supplement should not deviate from that outlined in Appendix II to MARPOL Annex I.

#### **5. Coastal State Authority**

- 5.1. The BMA recognises the specialised nature of construction and mode of operation of these types of units or ships.
- 5.2. The BMA also recognises that the coastal State where the unit operates has jurisdiction over fixed and floating platforms operating in its waters, including the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Consequently, it is accepted that there may be individual cases that deviate from MEPC.311(73) or its predecessors.
- 5.3. Where the authorities of a coastal State agree to allow deviations for the duration of operations at a fixed location in waters under their jurisdiction, this is applicable only whilst the unit/ship is in the waters of that Coastal State. When the unit or ship departs from the designated fixed location of operations, full compliance with MARPOL Annex I should be demonstrated.

#### **6. Queries**

- 6.1. Any queries on this Notice may be submitted to [tech@bahamasmaritime.com](mailto:tech@bahamasmaritime.com) or by contacting any BMA office.

**Revision History**

Version	Description of Revision
1.0	First Issue