
Marine Notices, Information Notices & Yacht Notices

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

This Marine Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.1

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 were expanded in scope and many contained a combination of instructions, requirements, guidance and information.
- 2.3. To improve clarity, the BMA is reorganising the information currently provided in Information Bulletins into Marine Notices and Information Notices.
- 2.4. In addition, information relating to yachts is provided separately in Yacht Notices (YN).
- 2.5. As existing Information Bulletins are replaced, their content is 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 continue to be valid until they are replaced by an MN, IN or YN – this process is scheduled to be completed by 31 December 2022. Accordingly, effective January 2022, references to Bulletins in BMA documents will be progressively updated to the relevant MN/IN/YN. The Annex to this Notice contains a full list of all Information Bulletins and their corresponding MN/IN/YN for reference.
- 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that specific MN, IN and YN numbers may be reserved for future use (e.g. where referenced in legislation) so they may not be published in numerical order.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. Companies¹ 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>.

¹ 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 <https://www.bahamasmaritime.com/news-events/subscribe-to-the-flag-newsletter/>. 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.

Revision History

Version	Description of Revision
1.0	First Issue
1.1	Editorial amendments
1.2	Periodic review, new branding
1.3	Para. 2.8 amended, new Para. 6.3, deleted para.7.6, addition of Annex
1.4	Addition of IN021 to Annex, correction of Bulletin 156 reference to MN70 in Annex to IN05
1.5	Amended paragraph 2.6
1.6	Periodic update

Annex – List of Information Bulletins and Corresponding MN/IN/YN

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
20	-	Withdrawn
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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
40	-	Withdrawn
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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
60	-	Withdrawn
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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
80	-	Withdrawn
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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
100	MN82	LSA fall wires
101	MN54	Conventions to which The Bahamas is a Party
102	YN04 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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
121	MN13	STCW recognised countries
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 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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
144	MN35	Hours of rest
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	IN05	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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
163	MN70	Requirements for refrigerated cargo ships carrying frozen fishery products to European Union countries
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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
183	MN62	MARPOL Annex VI – global fuel oil sulphur limit
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
The documents listed below were not previously issued as Information Bulletins but are included for completeness.		
-	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
-	MN97	Excursion boats
-	MN98	Bahamas Yacht Codes
-	MN99	Survey Requirements for Small Passenger Ships
-	MN100	The Merchant Shipping (Load Lines) Regulations 2022
-	MN101	The Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 2022
-	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

Information Bulletin No.	MN/IN/YN No.	Subject
-	IN20	Marriage on Bahamian ships
-	IN21	EyeSea App
-	IN22	Guidance on completion of DMLC Part II
-	IN23	BMA Reporting Portal
-	IN24	Bahamas Online Registration Information System (BORIS): Guidance on Seafarer Applications
-	IN25	CIC on Pilot Transfer Arrangements 2021-Results Analysis Report
-	IN26	Flagging of Seafarers
-	IN27	Crew Accommodation Guidance
-	IN28	Shipboard preparedness for emergency steering in Port Hedland