
Aviation Inspection Bodies

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

1. Purpose

- 1.1. Yachts subject to Section 33.1 of The Bahamas Large Charter Yacht Code or Bahamas Passenger Yacht Code require a Helicopter Landing Area Certificate (HLAC) or Helicopter Landing Area Technical Certificate to be issued by one of the Aviation Inspection Bodies (AIBs) recognised by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA).
- 1.2. Certification issued by the AIBs listed in BMA Information Notice 29 is accepted by the BMA for the purpose of meeting the requirements of The Bahamas Large Charter Yacht Code or Bahamas Passenger Yacht Code.
- 1.3. This Notice provides the BMA requirements for appointment as an AIB.
- 1.4. This Notice should be read in conjunction with the Bahamas Large Charter Yacht Code and the Bahamas Passenger Yacht Code.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Notice applies to all yachts fitted with helicopter landing facilities.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. The Bahamas Large Charter Yacht Code and Passenger Yacht Code requires that the structural strength of the helicopter landing area shall be designed and constructed according to rules of a Recognised Organisation.
- 3.2. Accordingly, the responsibilities for helicopter landing facilities are shared between the AIB and the Recognised Organisation (RO)¹.
- 3.3. Table 1 shows the split of responsibilities for helicopter landing areas.

¹ Or Yacht Survey Organisation for yachts of less than 500 gross tonnage

Item	Responsible Authority		Reference
	RO	AIB	
Helideck design and arrangement – Risk Assessment		X	BLYC/BPYC Section 33.1.2. The operator shall be included in the Risk Assessment process
Helideck design and arrangement – Drawings		X	BLYC/BPYC Section 33.2.3, 33.2.9
Helideck structure (including any tie down points or other means of securing, as applicable)	X		BLYC/BPYC Section 33.2.4, 33.2.9
Helideck access points and means of escape		X	BLYC/BPYC Section 33.2.8
Helideck firefighting appliances	X		BLYC/BPYC Section 33.2.6
Helideck drainage	X		BLYC/BPYC Section 33.2.7
Hangar structure	X		BLYC/BPYC Section 33.2.1
Hangar facilities	X	X	RO: BLYC/BPYC Section 33.4.1.1, 33.4.1.2, 33.4.1.3 AIB: BLYC/BPYC Section 33.4.1.4, 33.4.1.5, 33.4.1.6
Helicopter refuelling design and arrangement – drawings		X	BLYC/BPYC Section 33.5 - verification against industry standards and operational considerations
Helicopter refuelling facilities	X	X	AIB: BLYC/BPYC Section 33.5.1.1, 33.5.5 RO: Remaining items of Section 33.5
Operations manual and firefighting services		X	BLYC/BPYC Section 33.3

Table 1 – Responsibilities matrix

4. Recognition of Aviation Inspection Bodies

- 4.1. To be recognised as an AIB for Bahamian yachts, the AIB must submit an application to the BMA for consideration.
- 4.2. The AIB shall provide details of its capabilities and any existing approvals issued by other flag State administrations, along with details of its experience with certification of helicopter landing areas located on ships or yachts against the requirements of:
 - i. International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) *International Standards and Recommended Practices, Annex 14, Volume 2*;
 - ii. Equivalent national helicopter landing area standards (e.g. UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAP 437)).
- 4.3. The AIB shall be familiar with section 33 of the Bahamas Large Charter Yacht Code and Bahamas Passenger Yacht Code, or similar Codes considered by the BMA to be equivalent.
- 4.4. The AIB shall be familiar with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) *International Standards and Recommended Practices, Annex 14, Volume 2*.
- 4.5. The AIB will be required to sign an Agreement with the BMA which outlines the extent of the delegation of authority.
- 4.6. The AIB must hold liability insurance to satisfy the minimum liability requirements set out in the Agreement.
- 4.7. The AIB shall provide copies of all Helicopter Landing Area Certificates and/or Helicopter Landing Area Technical Certificates issued to Bahamian yachts to the BMA. This may be by providing access to the AIB's own database or by sending each certificate separately to yachts@bahamasmaritime.com.

5. Process of Application

- 5.1. An organisation wishing to act as an AIB should apply by sending details referred to in section 4 to the BMA at tech@bahamasmaritime.com for the attention of the Deputy Director, Inspections & Surveys.
- 5.2. Upon satisfactory review of the application, a standard Agreement will be sent electronically to the AIB for signing. A copy of the signed Agreement will be provided to the AIB.

5.3. Approved AIBs will be listed in BMA Information Notice 29.

6. Queries

6.1. Any queries regarding AIB authorisation may be made directly to the BMA Inspections & Surveys department at tech@bahamasmaritime.com.

