
Approval of Marine Equipment

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

This Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.71

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Notice provides information on the approval standards for individual items of marine equipment provided on board Bahamian ships to meet the requirements of International Conventions and which are required to be “approved by the Administration”.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Notice applies to all marine equipment subject to statutory certification to be used on Bahamian ships. It does not apply to marine equipment subject to class certification.

3. Certification of Marine equipment - General

- 3.1. The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) is not usually directly involved in the process of certification of marine equipment unless the equipment is manufactured in The Bahamas.
- 3.2. Marine equipment which is fully certified to the standard or specification referenced in an international Convention or associated Code by any Bahamas Recognised Organisation under a Type Approval Scheme is considered approved for routine applications on board Bahamian ships.
- 3.3. In addition, the BMA accepts marine equipment approvals granted by notified body authorised by States that are Parties to SOLAS, provided that the approval is in accordance with the Convention requirements.
- 3.4. Newly installed lifesaving equipment shall comply with SOLAS, the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code and International Maritime Organization (IMO) [Resolution MSC.81\(70\)](#), as amended.

- 3.5. Existing marine equipment that was manufactured and tested in accordance with previous SOLAS requirements remains acceptable for use, provided that it remains in serviceable condition.
- 3.6. The BMA also accepts marine equipment certified under:
- i. the European Union Marine Equipment Directive (MED);
 - ii. the United Kingdom Conformity Assessment Regulations (UKCA).
- 3.7. In the absence of any standards specified in a Convention or Code, the Recognised Organisation shall provide the BMA with relevant information and recommend a suitable alternative manufacturing, testing, and performance standard.

4. Alternative Design and Arrangements and Novel Equipment

- 4.1. This Notice does not address the approval of “alternative design and arrangements” on Bahamian ships. Please refer to [BMA Marine Notice 86](#).
- 4.2. This Notice also does not apply to the approval of novel equipment as an equivalent, or alternative, arrangement to an International Convention requirement. The general procedure for consideration of such applications is contained in [BMA Marine Notice 08](#).
- 4.3. The Recognised Organisation shall notify the BMA of any proposal to use approved equipment in an innovative manner. This may require additional testing and certification to be agreed between the BMA and the Recognised Organisation.

5. Queries

- 5.1. Any queries on this Notice may be addressed to tech@bahamasmaritime.com or by contacting any BMA office.

