



**BERMUDA GOVERNMENT
REGISTRY OF SHIPPING**

ROS-SC.18, Aug 2000

Harmonized System of Survey and Certification

SUMMARY

Implementation of Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

- SOLAS 74/78 - 1988 SOLAS Protocol
- ICLL 1966 - 1988 Load Line Protocol
- MARPOL 73/78 - Resolution; MEPC. 39(29)
- IBC CODE - Resolutions; MEPC. 40(29) and MSC. 16(58)
- IGC CODE - Resolutions; MSC. 17(58)
- BCH CODE - Resolutions; MEPC. 41(29) and MSC. 18(58)
- IMO RES. A.746(18) - The Survey Guidelines Under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification
- IMO RES. A.883(21) - Global and Uniform Implementation of the Harmonized System Of Survey and Certification (as applicable)

UK STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS APPLICABLE TO BERMUDA SHIPS

- S.I. 1995/1210 The Merchant Shipping (Survey and Certification) Regulations 1995, as amended
- S.I. 1994/2264 The Merchant Shipping (Gas Carriers) Regulations 1994
- S.I. 1996/3010 The Merchant Shipping (Dangerous or Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk) Regulations 1996, as amended
- S.I. 1998/2241 The Merchant Shipping (Load Line) Regulations 1998
- S.I. 1996/2154 The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Regulations 1996, as amended
- MSN 1751 (M+F) - Merchant Shipping Notice – Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)

Implementation of Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)

The Harmonized System of Survey and Certification came in to force on 3 February 2000 for those countries which were party to the 1988 SOLAS and 1988 Load Line Protocols on that date.

Bermuda Government became a party to *the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life At Sea (SOLAS) 1974, and the 1988 Protocol relating to the International Convention on Load Lines (LL) 1966, (herein after called 1988 Protocols)* following ratification of the said Protocols by the Government of the United Kingdom (U.K.) on 8 March, 2000.

The 1988 Protocols concerns the application of HSSC to statutory surveys and respective certificates issued under the provisions of SOLAS 74 and Load Line 66, Conventions. In addition to above Conventions, surveys conducted and certificates issued under the provisions of, MARPOL 73/78 Convention – Annexes I & II, , Chemical Codes – IBC/BCH, and Gas Code(s) – IGC/GC have also been modified by the IMO Resolutions MEPC. 39(29); MEPC. 40(29) and MEPC. 41(29); and MSC. 17(58) to achieve harmonization of all statutory certificates on board a ship.

U.K. implemented the provisions of above Protocols and Resolutions through the Merchant Shipping (Survey and Certification) (Amendment) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No.1334). The details of

application of these Regulations are given in the Merchant Shipping Notice, MSN 1751 (M+F).

Concurrent with U.K., the Bermuda Administration has introduced HSSC on Bermuda ships by adopting the above mentioned U.K. Statutory Instruments.

In the process of implementing HSSC on Bermuda ships the future statutory survey and certification will take the following form:

<u>CERTIFICATE</u>		<u>VALIDITY</u>
• Passenger Ship Safety Certificate	(PSSC)	12 Months
• Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate	(SAFCON)	5 Years
• Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate	(SEC)	5 Years
• Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate	(SAFRAD)	5 Years
• International Load Line Certificate	(LOAD LINE)	5 Years
• International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (MARPOL ANNEX I)		5 Years
• International Pollution Prevention Certificate for the Carriage of Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk (MARPOL ANNEX II)		5 Years
• International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gasses in Bulk (IGC/GC)		5 Years
• International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC/BCH Code)		5 Years

Exemption certificates if any will be issued directly by the Registry of Shipping

CONDUCTING SURVEYS AND ISSUING OF STATUTORY CERTIFICATES

All surveys must be carried out by an appropriate Certifying Authority. For the purpose of carrying out surveys on Bermuda ships the Certifying Authorities are - the Registry of Shipping Bermuda, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) U.K., Lloyd's Register of Shipping (LR), the British Committee of Bureau of Veritas (BV), the British Committee of Det Norske Veritas (DNV), the British Committee of Germanischer Lloyd (GL), the British Technical Committee of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), and the British Committee of Registro Italiano Navale (RINA).

With regards to the type of safety certificates issued under the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, Bermuda has taken the option of issuing a separate safety certificate (SAFCON, SAFRAD & SEC) for each of the respective surveys conducted on a cargo ship, instead of the single Cargo Ship Safety Certificate permitted under the HSSC regime.

SAFCON, LOAD LINE CERTIFICATE

Under Survey Agreements existing between the Bermuda Administration and above Classification Societies (Recognized Organizations) (herein after also called 'Class'), Bermuda has given **full authorization** to above Classification Societies, acting in their capacity as Certifying Authorities, to conduct SAFCON and Load Line, surveys and their certification on board Bermuda ships. However, Fire Protection, Stability, Exemptions, Extensions, and Equivalency arrangements remain the responsibility of this Administration.

Ship owners and operators may deal directly with the respective Class on all matters concerning these two surveys and their certification on their ships.

Following coming into force of the HSSC, Classes have been instructed to liaise with the ship owners and operators to introduce the new survey and certification system as early as possible in an orderly manner.

On satisfactory completion of these surveys the Class is authorized to issue the relevant full term certificates in accordance with the provisions of HSSC regime, in the **form prescribed in the 1988 Protocols**, on behalf of the Bermuda Administration.

PASSENGER SHIP SAFETY CERTIFICATE

This survey is not fully delegated to Class hence remains the direct responsibility of this Administration. However, similar to cargo ships the Load Line survey and certification has been delegated to the Class and owners may directly deal with Class on load line matters.

For practical reasons a substantial number of Passenger Ship Safety survey items have been delegated to Class under special authorization. Along with Class surveyors Bermuda surveyor will attend these vessels to undertake the Passenger Ship Safety surveys. The full term Passenger Ship Safety Certificate under HSSC will be issued by the Bermuda Administration.

CARGO SHIP SAFETY EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATE and CARGO SHIP SAFETY RADIO CERTIFICATE.

Surveys for these certificates are delegated to Class on a case by case basis. On satisfactory completion of surveys the Class is authorized to issue relevant Interim (Short Term) Certificates in accordance with the provisions of HSSC regime, **in the form prescribed in the 1988 SOLAS Protocol** on behalf of the Bermuda Administration. The validity of Interim certificates will be limited to 5 months.

The full term Safety Equipment, and Safety Radio certificates will be issued by the Registry of Shipping.

MARPOL 73/78, ANNEX I & II; SURVEYS AND CERTIFICATION

The HSSC has been applied to MARPOL 73/78 Annexes I & II through IMO Resolution - MEPC. 39.(29). The modifications required for the application of HSSC to above Annexes have been effected by the adoption of amendments to the Annex of the Protocol 1978 relating to MARPOL 73 and details of these amendments are given in the text of above Resolution.

The surveys for MARPOL Annexes I & II, on Bermuda ships are delegated to Class on a case by case basis and this system will continue in future under the HSSC regime. Upon completion of the relevant surveys Class is authorized to issue Interim certificates in accordance with the HSSC guide lines and in the **forms prescribed in Appendix II & V respectively in Resolution MEPC. 39(29)**, on behalf of the Bermuda Administration

The full term IOPP Certificates under HSSC will be issued from the Registry of Shipping, Bermuda.

In circumstances where a full-term certificate is to be issued by the Class, this requirement will be stipulated in the survey authorization.

GAS CODE(S) (IGC/GC) AND CHEMICALS IN BULK CODE(S) (IBC/BCH) - SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION

Application of HSSC to above Codes were effected as follows:

IGC/GC	by Resolution MSC.17(58)
IBC	by Resolution MEPC.40(29) and MSC.16(58)
BCH	by Resolution MEPC.41(29) and MSC.18(58)

The survey and certification for above Codes on Bermuda ships are delegated to Class on a case by case basis and this system will continue in future under the HSSC regime. Up on completion of the relevant

surveys the Class is authorized to issue Interim certificates on behalf of the Bermuda Administration in accordance with HSSC guide lines and in the manner prescribed in the applicable Resolution.

The full term certificates under HSSC relating to IGC and GC will be issued by the Bermuda Administration.

The full term certificates under HSSC relating to IBC and BCH Codes will be issued by Class on behalf of the Bermuda Administration.

IMPLEMENTATION OF HSSC ON BERMUDA SHIPS

At the request of some ship owners Bermuda has already initiated the process of application of HSSC on Bermuda ships. In this process, we have adopted procedures as recommended in the IMO Guidelines on this subject. In order to align the surveys, and adjust the validity of certificates to achieve a common Anniversary date for the application of HSSC, where necessary new surveys will be conducted, if required short-term extensions given to existing certificates as appropriate.

Attention is drawn to Annex 1, of the Assembly Resolution A.883 (21) - Introduction of the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification - which gives the manner by which survey and certification under HSSC may best be achieved. (copy attached).

The current SOLAS, Load Line, and MARPOL Convention certificates carried on board a ship as of 3 February, 2000 will remain valid until their expiry date. On expiry of the latest of the above certificates, the full requirements of HSSC regime will come in to force on a Bermuda ship.

For practical purposes the date of expiry of the Safety Construction or the Load Line Certificate may be considered a suitable date for the introduction of HSSC. Other factors which have influence on the HSSC implementation date on a particular ship may be the date of dry-docking, date of repairs or renovations. **The owners and operators should liaise with Class and the Bermuda Administration for adopting a convenient date for the introduction of HSSC on a particular ship, noting that any new certificates issued following renewal surveys may be issued under the HSSC regime (para 3, ANNEX I).**

With regards to format of certificates under the HSSC regime, the modified statutory certificates to be issued to Bermuda ships have been approved and advice given to appropriate certifying authorities accordingly..

The Masters, Owners and Operators of Bermuda ships are encouraged to apply the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification on their ships as early as practicable.

Encl. - Diagrammatic Arrangements for HSSC
- Annex I, MEPC Res. A.883(21)

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(HSSC ROS-SC.18)

IMO Assembly Resolution A. 883(21)

ANNEX I

INTRODUCTION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF SURVEY
AND CERTIFICATION

- 1 The current certificates that are on board a particular ship on 3 February 2000 will remain valid until they expire.
- 2 The date for the introduction of the harmonized system of survey and certification (HSSC) after 3 February 2000 should normally be the latest expiry date of certificates issued under the SOLAS, Load Line and MARPOL Conventions, unless another convenient date, e.g. the expiry date of the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate, the date of dry-docking or date of repair or renovation, is agreed upon between the shipowner or company and the Administration.
- 3 In the case where an existing certificate has expired before the date of introduction of the harmonized system, a new certificate using the form prescribed under the harmonized system may be issued after the renewal survey has been carried out. The validity of the new certificate may be limited to the date of introduction of the harmonized system as provided for in paragraph 2 above.
- 4 Notwithstanding that some certificates may still be valid when the harmonized system of survey and certification is introduced on a particular ship, renewal surveys should be carried out whether or not they are due, and a new set of the relevant certificates under the harmonized system should be issued and the anniversary date common to all certificates should be specified. In general, renewal surveys completed within three months of the date of introduction of the harmonized system may be valid, and the extent of renewal surveys to be carried out may take account of the date and extent of the previous renewal surveys if carried out only recently.
- 5 When implementing the harmonized system of survey and certification, it should be applied to all types of ships and in respect of all relevant instruments.