
Lifeboat, Rescue Boat, Launching Appliances & Release Gear Maintenance etc.

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

This Notice. supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.184

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this Marine Notice is to describe the requirements of the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) for issuing and maintaining authorisation to service providers¹ for maintenance, thorough examination, operational testing, overhaul and repair of lifeboats and rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear, as required by Regulation 20 of Chapter III of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974, as amended (SOLAS Chapter III).
- 1.2. This Notice describes eligibility criteria and the certification scheme for service providers aiming to be listed as a Bahamas Authorised Service Provider (BASP).
- 1.3. This Notice should be read in conjunction with IMO resolutions [MSC.402\(96\)](#)² and [MSC.404\(96\)](#)³ and Circular [MSC.1-Circ.1578 Guidelines on safety during abandon ship drills using lifeboats](#)⁴.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Notice applies to service providers who intend to conduct repairs, overhauls, annual and 5-yearly thorough examination, service and testing of the following equipment fitted on board Bahamian flagged ships:
 - i. Lifeboats (including free-fall lifeboats), rescue boats and fast rescue boats; and
 - ii. Launching appliances (including primary and secondary means of launching appliance for freefall lifeboats), and release gear for all lifeboats type, rescue boats, fast rescue boats and davit launched liferafts.

¹ "Authorised Service Provider" means an entity authorised by the Administration in accordance with section 3 and 7 of MSC.402(96) and can be a manufacturer or third-party service provider

² [https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.402\(96\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.402(96).pdf)

³ [https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.404\(96\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/MSCResolutions/MSC.404(96).pdf)

⁴ [MSC.1-Circ.1578 Guidelines on safety during abandon ship drills using lifeboats](#)

- 2.2. Weekly and monthly inspections are normally conducted by a competent person⁵, in accordance with the maintenance manual(s), and such activities do not require BMA authorisation.

3. Background

- 3.1. In 2016, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee adopted amendments to Regulation 20 of SOLAS Chapter III to establish mandatory requirements related to maintenance, testing and overhaul of lifeboats, rescue boats, fast rescue boats, launching appliances and release gear including those serving davit launched liferafts.
- 3.2. The amendments entered into force on 01 January 2020 and set provisions for servicing of equipment listed in paragraph 2.1, including procedures for flag State authorisation of service providers.

4. Requirements

- 4.1. Service providers intending to undertake the services listed in paragraph 2.1 on Bahamian ships should be in possession of a Bahamas Approved Service Provider (BASP) Certificate of Authorisation, issued by the BMA.
- 4.2. It is the responsibility of the Company⁶ to ensure that servicing, testing and repairs of equipment listed in paragraph 2.1 is carried out only by BASPs holding a valid Certificate of Authorisation issued by the BMA.
- 4.3. The Company may perform the annual thorough examinations and operational tests outlined in Regulation 20 of SOLAS Chapter III, provided they are authorised by the BMA as a BASP for makes and types of equipment to be serviced.
- 4.4. BASPs that perform routine⁷ servicing or repairs must be authorised by the BMA for each make and type of equipment to be serviced, in accordance with the specified criteria of minimum capabilities, education, training and quality system requirements.
- 4.5. A list of available BASPs is provided at: <https://www.bahamasmaritime.com/providers/>

⁵ Please refer to [BMA Marine Notice 89](#)

⁶ 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.

⁷ Annual thorough examinations, operational tests, fire-year thorough examination, any overhaul and overload operational tests as stated in this Marine Notice

- 4.6. All inspections, maintenance, repairs, overhauls, thorough examinations and operational tests shall be performed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and the provisions of section 6 of MSC.402(96).
- 4.7. Where the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) is no longer in business and there is no access to spare parts, the Company, in cooperation with the Recognised Organisation that classes the ship, should undertake to locate a service provider capable of supplying spare parts manufactured, inspected and tested to the original maker's specification and make an appropriate proposal to the BMA for consideration.
- 4.8. The BMA recognises that there are different interpretations with regard to definitions of "make and type" of the equipment. For the purpose of issuing the Certificate of Authorisation, "make" should refer to the name of the OEM or entity authorised by the manufacturer for production of the equipment (e.g. MANUF01) and "type" refers to a specific model, type, series or range of equipment (e.g. Model XYZ or series XYZ or range XYZ)
- 4.9. The BMA reserves the right to conduct investigations or additional audits where there is evidence that the BASP may not be in compliance with the conditions upon which its authorisation has been issued. All costs associated with such investigations or audits will be charged to the BASP.
- 4.10. As part of the authorisation and verification, the BMA may request that the BASP provides its documentation related to previous services, including vessel name, IMO number and list of equipment serviced.
- 4.11. A BASP is not authorised to self-certify any subcontractors under the BASP scheme. When subcontractors are used, all work will need to be supervised and signed off by a direct BASP employee who will be physically onboard. The ultimate responsibility for the job remains with the BASP.
- 4.12. When a subcontractor is acting as an independent company on behalf of a BASP, the attending subcontractor company shall be listed and included on the original BASP Certificate of Authorisation
- 4.13. Any violation of the provisions of this Notice by a BASP may result in the termination of its authorisation.

5. **BASP Applications**

- 5.1. To obtain a BASP Certificate of Authorisation or a renewal of an existing one, the applicant shall complete the application [form](#) and send it to tech@bahamasmaritime.com
- 5.2. The applicant in order to complete the application shall prepare and attach several documents as follows:
- i. Valid Quality Management System certification or evidence of an equivalent Quality Management System;
 - ii. Evidence of personnel education and training standards;
 - iii. Evidence of previous authorisations or long-term experience and expertise demonstrated as a service provider;
 - iv. Evidence of resources available to perform the job to which the applicant wishes to be authorised, including maker's specific equipment information, service and repair manuals, access to spare parts and replacement components;
 - v. Proof of relevant training for the specific equipment or equivalent related material.
- 5.3. The existing certificate will reflect Make & type to which the BASP is authorised to work on, when new training modules and associated on job training / experience have been implemented, in line with the company policy, the service provider might be eligible for an amendment of the existing certificate. Request of amendment shall be made via e-form: tech@bahamasmaritime.com

6. **Exceptional Circumstances**

- 6.1. Under exemptional circumstances, the BMA may consider a single attendance authorisation, often known as a "one off" authorisation. This will be considered only when it is deemed necessary and when the applicant has demonstrated sufficient experience and competence for the intended make & type.
- 6.2. Such application shall be submitted by the Service provider company by submitting the "one off" authorisation [form](#) to the BMA at tech@bahamasmaritime.com .
- 6.3. The authorisation will be tailored to a single vessel attendance.

7. BASP Certification

- 7.1. The BASP Certificate of Authorisation issued by the BMA is valid for three (3) years.
- 7.2. Renewal applications shall be made within three (3) months of the expiry date of the existing Certificate of Authorisation.
- 7.3. The Certificate of Authorisation issued by the BMA will only reflect the authorised service provider's company name but will not list its personnel.
- 7.4. Where a renewal application is not received prior to the expiry of a Certificate of Authorisation, the Certificate will expire and the BASP will be removed from the list of BASPs.
- 7.5. The attending Recognised Organisation surveyor shall verify that BASPs engaged in conducting repair or service are in possession of a valid Certificate of Authorisation for the specific make and type of the equipment.
- 7.6. The Recognised Organisation surveyor shall record and attach within their survey report the following details:
 - i. BASP details and the Certificate Number for the Certificate of Authorisation issued by the BMA;
 - ii. A statement, letter or report, issued by the attending BASP who has conducted the work, confirming that the arrangements remain fit for purpose.

8. BMA position on ISO PAS 23678 standard

- 8.1. The BMA has not officially recognised this international standard, as it has not yet been officially released and is not referenced in MSC.402(96).
- 8.2. Accordingly, the BMA does not recognise certificates or training issued solely under the provision of ISO PAS 23678. Each training certificate shall continue to adopt the M&T format as per paragraph 4.8 of this notice in line with MSC.402(96).

9. BASP Logo

- 9.1. When a BASP has been issued with a Certificate of Authorisation, it may use the appropriate BASP logo.
- 9.2. The BMA will provide the BASP logo upon request. Requests should be made to tech@bahamasmaritime.com.
- 9.3. Any unauthorised use of the BASP logo or trademarks is strictly prohibited.

10. Fees

- 10.1. Fees for the issuance of a BASP Certificate of Authorisation are as listed in [Marine Notice 50](#).

11. Queries

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

Revision History

Version	Description of Revision
1.0	First Issue