

Marine Information Bulletin

Issued 2 September 2006, last reviewed 14 September 2009

Compass adjusters

Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to advise ship owners, ship operators and Maritime Safety Queensland accredited persons of the recommended qualifications for persons adjusting ship compasses.

Owners' obligations

To meet their general safety obligation, the owners and operators of commercial ships must ensure their ships are seaworthy. As part of this requirement, an owner and operator must equip the ship for proper navigation. Ship owners and operators may satisfy this obligation by complying with the compass requirements set out in section 13 of the most recently amended *Uniform Shipping Laws Code of Australia*.

Regulation of compass adjusters

Compass adjuster licenses are issued by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority under the Marine Orders, part 21: Safety of Navigation and Emergency Procedures.

Compass adjuster licences had previously been issued by the Marine Board of Queensland prior to the enactment of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*.

However, there is no current requirement to register or seek approval from the Queensland Government before operating as a compass adjuster in Queensland.

Accredited compass adjusters

Ship owners and operators can obtain a list of accredited compass adjusters from any Australian Maritime Safety Authority office.

Qualifications of compass adjusters

Maritime Safety Queensland recommends ship owners and operators ensure the person adjusting the compass holds one of the following qualifications:

- current licence as a compass adjuster issued by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority under Marine Orders part 21
- current licence as a compass adjuster issued by another state or territory Marine Authority
- the person was previously licensed by the Marine Board of Queensland as a compass adjuster and has actively operated as a compass adjuster since
- the person has successfully completed a course on adjustment of compasses approved by the Manager of Ship Operations and Qualifications, Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Information

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email msgmail@msq.qld.gov.au.

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website www.msq.qld.gov.au and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices:

Airlie Beach	(07) 4946 2200
Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500
Cairns	(07) 4052 7400
Gladstone	(07) 4973 1200
Hervey Bay	(07) 4194 9600
Mackay	(07) 4944 3700
Mooloolaba	(07) 5477 8425
Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
Southport	(07) 5539 7300
Townsville	(07) 4726 3400