

## Marine Information Bulletin

### Application of the nationally approved survey checklists for the periodic survey of commercial vessels

#### Purpose

This bulletin has been raised to inform both accredited persons and ship owners of the list of items to be checked at periodical surveys in certain situations.

#### Background

The new survey checklists follow the *National Standard for the Administration of Marine Safety (NSAMS) Section 4 – Survey of Vessels*. These checklists replace the survey checklists in the *Uniform Shipping Law Code (USL Code)*.

#### In which situations are NSAMS compliant periodic surveys required in Queensland?

Surveys conducted for the following three situations must use the appropriate NSAMS periodic survey checklists:

1. To apply for a Certificate of Survey.
2. To meet a condition of registration for certain high risk ships.
3. As a result of a Written Direction – where a whole of ship survey is required.

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) encourages owners of fishing and commercial vessels to use the NSAMS schedules for all other surveys as well, however this is on a voluntarily basis within Queensland at present.

#### What is the NSAMS cycle?

NSAMS Annex E Tables E1, 2 and 3 list the items that should be examined, verified, tested or trialled each year in a five year cycle of annual surveys. These checks are generally conducted while the vessel is in the water but there are some 'out of water' checks to be made in years three and five. The five year cycle is repeated throughout the vessel's life.

Annex E 2.3 also lists particular tests that must be completed every 10 years of the vessel's life span.

#### Which year of the NSAMS cycle should a vessel start at?

The correct year of the cycle to commence using for an existing vessel is calculated in reference to the last time the ship was surveyed by an accredited person, particularly an out of water survey.

The accredited surveyor will be guided by the following:

- The year specified in the written direction.

- The year specified in the condition of registration.
- Any other stipulation by the shipping inspector.
- The requirements for a Certificate of Survey, and/or –
- Their knowledge of the condition of the vessel.

These minimum requirements shall apply for Certificates of Survey and conditions of registration:

- For greater risk ships:
  - Use Table E.1 of NSAMS – Schedule for Survey of Level 1 Vessels
  - If more than five years since the last survey, commence with the fifth year of the NSAMS cycle
  - If less than five years since last survey, commence with third year of the NSAMS cycle
  - A ten yearly survey as per NSAMS Annex E2.3 must be completed every tenth year of the vessel's life.
- For reduced risk ships:
  - Use Table E.2 of NSAMS – Schedule for Survey Level 2 Vessels
  - If greater than five years since the last survey, commence with the fifth year of the NSAMS cycle
  - If less than five years since the last survey commence with the third or fifth year of the NSAMS cycle
  - A ten yearly survey as per NSAMS Annex E2.3 must be completed every tenth year of the vessel's life.

#### What if the vessel does not get a Certificate of Survey every year?

- Continue the yearly count into the NSAMS cycle as if the vessel has been surveyed every year.

#### and

- Comply with the requirement that the interval between two consecutive out of water surveys must not exceed 36 months.

#### and

- A ten yearly survey as per NSAMS Annex E2.3 must be completed every tenth year of the vessel's life.

#### What evidence is required concerning when the vessel was last surveyed?

- A Certificate of Compliance for Survey was issued.
- or
- Provided there is accompanying evidence, a letter

from an accredited person may be considered by Maritime Safety Queensland when determining the appropriate year of the NSAMS cycle to use for the first mandatory survey.

Note: Certificates of Compliance for Survey must clearly state the year of the NSAMS cycle used.

### **Survey to address requirements of a Written Direction (whole of ship)**

A surveyor must assume, unless they seek clarification from MSQ, that all items of the appropriate survey checklist must be assessed in a survey for 'whole of ship'.

The shipping inspector will nominate the year of the cycle to use for the survey. If not, use the appropriate year of the survey cycle as outlined above.

If the written direction is not for 'whole of ship', only items specified in the Written Direction must be addressed.

### **Recording NSAMS surveys on MSQ forms**

For the three mandatory survey situations above, the accredited surveyor must reference the use of the NSAMS survey schedule on the Certificate of Compliance for Survey. This includes clearly indicating the appropriate year of the cycle that was used.

Currently the Certificate of Compliance for Survey and the Application for Certificate of Survey forms refer to the USL Code. These will be changed as soon as possible and new books will be issued. However in the meantime please use the following work around.

- **Certificates of Compliance for Survey**
  - In the survey details section, clause (iv), cross out the reference to the USL Code, Section 14 and replace it with the acronym NSAMS.
  - Cross out the boxes relating to the USL Code survey schedule. In the grey space above the declaration, write in the year of the appropriate NSAMS 5/10 year cycle that was used.
- **Application for Certificates of Survey form**
  - Adjust the section on page 2 titled 'Information required for mutual recognition of Queensland Issued Survey Certificate by Australian Interstate Authorities' to reflect the use of NSAMS.

Surveyors are reminded that non compliances with the relevant standard applicable to the vessel must be noted on the Certificate of Compliance for Survey.

### **NSAMS survey requirements for documentation**

Where the survey schedule requires documentation to be verified, an accredited person should check that the documents are onboard and in use. Examination and testing of documentation will be conducted by Maritime Safety Queensland.

Surveyors should refer to the latest version of the Accredited Persons Guidance Manual for further information about the surveying of vessels.

### **Information**

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email [msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au).

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of vessels can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://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
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