

## Marine Information Bulletin

### Amendments to the USL Code — Implementation in Queensland

Issued 27 August 2010

#### Purpose

This bulletin has been raised to inform vessel owners and accredited persons about amendments to the Uniform Shipping Laws (USL) Code.

This Marine Information Bulletin replaces the individual bulletins produced for the introduction of Amendment Lists 6 and 7 in 2008 and 2009.

#### Background

The finished parts of the National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV) are implemented throughout Australia via amendments to the USL Code.

These amendments create a hybrid code - also referred to as the Combined USL/NSCV Code.

#### Breakdown of Combined USL/NSCV Code

The parts of the USL Code modified by Amendment Lists 6, 7, 8 and 9 are listed in the attachment to this Marine Information Bulletin.

#### Application

The amended USL Code (or Combined USL/NSCV Code) shall apply to:

- new vessels,
- existing vessels subject to initial registration or survey, where either is being completed or verified for the first time,
- existing vessels subject to a change in service category, where the authority requires all or part of the vessel to be verified to comply with the prescribed standards,
- existing ships not seeking a change in service category but completing further building, as defined by Maritime Safety Queensland, which increases the risks to persons or the ship compared to the risks that were present prior to alteration.

#### Clarification of application to new vessels

A new vessel must be designed and constructed in accordance with the version of the USL Code in use at the time that the application for a Design Approval Certificate or a Certificate of Compliance for Design is lodged with Maritime Safety Queensland.

Construction of the vessel must commence within three years of the lodgement date. If not, the ship's design must be reassessed and possibly changed to comply with the latest version of the USL Code.

Construction shall be considered to have commenced when:

- the keel is laid, or
- construction identifiable with the particular vessel has begun, and
- a portion of the vessel has been fabricated and finally assembled, having a mass of not less than the lesser of:
  - 50 tonnes, or
  - one per cent of the estimated mass of all structural material of the vessel as proposed to be completed.

#### Clarification of application to existing vessels subject to initial registration or survey

Existing vessel owners applying for initial registration or survey will need to comply with the latest version of the USL Code.

This may mean it is necessary to modify the vessel to comply with the amended USL Code to obtain registration or full survey.

#### Clarification of application to existing vessels which are changing service category, or where further building is being completed

Existing vessel owners applying for a change in service category for a vessel must comply with the requirements of the latest amended USL Code. Owners who conduct further building that increases the risk on the vessel must apply the amended USL Code to the areas of the ship where the risk is increased.

Examples of increased risks are explained in the National Marine Safety Council Guideline — the application of the combined USL Code/NSCV 2008 to existing vessels that are upgraded or altered. This document can be found at [http://www.nmsc.gov.au/media/pages\\_media\\_files/files/GuidelinestoexistingvesselsNEW.pdf](http://www.nmsc.gov.au/media/pages_media_files/files/GuidelinestoexistingvesselsNEW.pdf)

### **New applications for certificates of survey for Queensland registered vessels**

An existing Queensland registered ship will be issued a certificate of survey which refers to compliance with the USL Code that was in existence at the time the vessel was assessed for registration.

Non-compliances will then be considered during assessment of the survey application and will be listed on the survey certificate. These non compliances may not be accepted by other jurisdictions.

### **Reminder**

Owners and designers are reminded that under section 56 of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004* all new and further building commercial vessel construction projects must be preceded by:

- the lodgement of a notification of the intention to build a ship
- a design approval certificate or particulars of the certificate of compliance for the design of the ship.

### **Information**

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email [msgmail@msg.qld.gov.au](mailto:msgmail@msg.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.msg.qld.gov.au](http://www.msg.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

## Amendments to the USL Code

<b>Amendment List 6 - Commenced 1 October 2008 – Created the USL Code 2008</b>	
<b>Section of the USL Code affected</b>	<b>Part of the NSCV introduced</b>
Section 1 – Introduction, Definitions and General Requirements	Part F Section 1 – Fast Craft
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Section 5 Subsection 5 F – Construction – Structural Fire Protection Section 11 – Fire Appliances	Part C Section 4 – Fire Safety
Section 9 – Engineering	Part C Section 5 - Engineering

<b>Amendment List 7 - Commenced 1 October 2009 – Created the USL Code 2009</b>	
<b>Section of the USL Code affected</b>	<b>Part of the NSCV introduced</b>
Section 5 Subsection 5 – Construction	Part C Section 3 - Construction
Section 8 – Stability (Intact)	Part C Section 6 – Stability (Intact)
Section 13 – Miscellaneous Equipment	Part C Section 7 Subsection 7B, C and D – Communication, Navigation and Anchoring
Section 15 – Emergency Procedures and Safety of Navigation	Part E – Operational Practices
Change to <i>Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004</i> Part 2 – Safety Equipment	Part C Subsection 7A – Safety Equipment

<b>Amendment List 8 - Commenced 1 October 2010 – Created the USL Code 2010</b>	
<b>Section of the USL Code affected</b>	<b>Part of the NSCV introduced</b>
Section 5 Subsection 5E – Construction – Passengers, Passenger Accommodation	Part C Section 1 – Arrangements, Accommodation and Personal Safety
Section 5 Subsection 5C, D – Construction – Watertight Subdivision of Vessels	Part C Section 2 – Watertight and Weathertight Integrity
Section 8 – Stability (Damaged)	Part C Section 6 – Stability (Damaged)
Section 18 – Hire and Drive Vessels	Part F Section 2 – Leisure Craft

<b>Amendment List 9 - Commenced 1 October 2010 – Part of the USL Code 2010</b>	
<b>Section of the USL Code affected</b>	<b>Part of the NSCV introduced</b>
Section 10 – Life Saving Appliances (Minor adjustment of clause numbering)	Section C Subsection 7A – Safety Equipment – Version 3