
Conventions to which The Bahamas is a Party

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

This Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No.101

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Marine Notice provides information on the Conventions to which The Bahamas is a Party and guidance on the technical standards which are to be applied to Bahamian ships.

2. Application

- 2.1. Applies to all Bahamian ships.

3. General

- 3.1. The technical requirements for Bahamian ships are the applicable International Conventions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labour Organization (ILO), and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), together with amendments and mandatory resolutions that have been adopted and which have been enacted through the Bahamas Merchant Shipping Act.
- 3.2. The Conventions ratified by the Government of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas which apply to Bahamian ships are listed in the Annex to this Bulletin.
- 3.3. Recognised Organisations, as part of their authorisation, are required to support and implement where practicable, non-mandatory international requirements specified by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) when performing approval, survey, audit and certification.
- 3.4. In applying standards, Bahamas Recognised Organisations must take account of any relevant interpretation, clarification or other advice issued by the BMA in any BMA Information Bulletins, Marine Notices or in the Bahamas National Requirements.

- 3.5. In the absence of such BMA issued direction, IMO guidance as contained in IMO Resolutions and Circulars should be considered where practicable, and instructions should be sought from the BMA as necessary.
- 3.6. In the absence of either flag State or IMO guidance, relevant technical standards of the Recognised Organisation, including International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Unified Requirements, Unified Interpretations, Procedural Requirements, etc. must be considered. The Bahamas expects that ship owners, managers and builders will also take the above into account.

4. Carriage Requirements

- 4.1. The carriage of printed or digital copies of the documents referred to in paragraph 3 onboard Bahamian registered ships is not, in general, mandatory. However, ship owners and managers are reminded that it remains their responsibility, under the obligations placed upon the company by the ISM Code, to ensure that members of the shipboard management team are knowledgeable in the Conventions that relate to their duties. In this regard, it is expected that the full text of these documents will be available on board for reference in either hard copy or digital form.
- 4.2. The Bahamas also recommends that owners and managers of Bahamian ships adopt the practices contained in applicable non-mandatory resolutions and circulars that provide alternatives to, and clarifications of, the requirements contained in the Conventions and Codes.
- 4.3. Bahamas-specific interpretations and/or instructions relating to the application of the international conventions and other requirements are given in:
 - i. The Bahamas National Requirements
 - ii. BMA Marine Notices
 - iii. BMA Information Notices
 - iv. BMA Information Bulletins
- 4.4. Copies of these documents – in either hard copy or digital form - are to be maintained for immediate reference onboard every Bahamian vessel and in every shore office.
- 4.5. The attention of all parties is drawn to the availability of the Conventions and Codes from the IMO Publications Department and most nautical publishers/bookshops. The IMO Publications Department can be contacted as follows:

IMO Publishing, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, UK
Tel: +44 20 7735 7611
Fax: +44 20 7587 3241
email: sales@imo.org

Annex

The Bahamas is a Party to the following international Conventions and Agreements:

International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules relating to the Arrest of Sea-Going Ships, 1952

Convention on the International Maritime Satellite Organisation (INMARSAT), 1976

Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FACILITATION), 1965

International Convention on Load Lines (LL), 1966 and the 1988 Protocol

International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships (TONNAGE), 1969

International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution damage, 1969 (CLC) and the Protocols of 1976 and 1992

International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas in cases of Oil Pollution Casualties (INTERVENTION), 1969 and the Protocol of 1973

International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (FUND), 1971, Protocol of 1976 and Protocol of 1992

Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS), 1972

International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC), 1972

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 and Protocol of 1997 (Annexes I, II, III, IV, V & VI)

International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1960

International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 and the Protocols of 1978 and 1988

Athens Convention Relating to the Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea (PAL), 1974 and 1976 Protocol

International Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims (LLMC), 1976

International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978

International Telecommunication Convention (Montreux), 1965 and the Radio Regulations, 1968

International Health Regulations (Geneva), 1969

Minimum Age (Sea) Convention, 1920 (ILO No. 7)

Seaman's Articles of Agreement Convention, 1926 (ILO No. 22)

Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976 (ILO No. 147)

Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA), 1988 and the 1988 Protocol

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC), 1990

International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001 (AFS Convention)

International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (Bunker Convention)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006

Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007

Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2010

Convention on Private International Law, 1928 (Bustamante Code)

International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (BWM)

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS)

