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## Marine Notices, Information Notices & Yacht Notices

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

*This Marine Notice replaces BMA Information Bulletin No.1 Rev.3*

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Marine Notice (MN) describes the system of documents issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA).

### 2. Introduction

- 2.1. The BMA introduced BMA Information Bulletins in 1997 to support the Merchant Shipping Act.
- 2.2. Over time, Information Bulletins have been expanded in scope and many now contain a combination of instructions, requirements, guidance and information.
- 2.3. To improve clarity, the BMA has decided to reorganise the information currently provided in Information Bulletins into Marine Notices and Information Notices.
- 2.4. In addition, information relating to yachts will be provided separately in Yacht Notices (YN).
- 2.5. As existing Information Bulletins are replaced, their content will be reallocated to the relevant Marine Notice (MN), Information Notice (IN), or Yacht Notice (YN) depending on what the Bulletin originally contained.
- 2.6. Existing Information Bulletins will continue to be valid until they are replaced by an MN, IN or YN.
- 2.7. MNs, INs and YNs when published will contain a reference in the header to any Bulletin that has been incorporated.
- 2.8. A cross-reference table of Bulletins to MN/IN/YN is available to download [here](#).

- 2.9. MNs, INs and YNs are numbered sequentially. MNs, INs or YNs on specific topics will retain the same MN, IN or YN number, with subsequent revisions being identified by their version number.
- 2.10. It should be noted that specific MN, IN and YN numbers may be reserved for future use (e.g. where referenced in legislation) so they may not be published in numerical order.
- 2.11. Any printed copies of MNs, Ins and YNs, or copies downloaded from the BMA website, are uncontrolled – the BMA website should be checked for the effective version of any MN, IN or YN.
- 2.12. The purpose of each document type is outlined below.

### **3. Marine Notices (MNs)**

- 3.1. The purpose of Marine Notices is to provide instructions and requirements in support of Bahamas legislation.
- 3.2. MNs are mandatory and must be followed by all parties to which the MN applies.

### **4. Information Notices (INs)**

- 4.1. The purpose of Information Notices is to provide information and guidance in support of Bahamas legislation and Marine Notices.
- 4.2. INs are non-mandatory, but it is recommended that they are followed by all parties to which the IN applies.

### **5. Yacht Notices (YNs)**

- 5.1. The purpose of Yacht Notices is to provide information and guidance in support of the Bahamas Yacht Code and Bahamas Passenger Yacht Code.
- 5.2. YNs are to be followed by all parties to which the YN applies.

## **6. Use and Retention of Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices**

- 6.1. Companies<sup>1</sup> shall ensure that the contents of Marine Notices, Information Notices and/or Yacht Notices that are relevant to their operations are incorporated into their safety management system
- 6.2. Where specific BMA Information Bulletins are currently referred to in the safety management system etc., that reference should be read in conjunction with the cross-reference table described in paragraph 2.8. Companies should ensure that all references to BMA Information Bulletins in internal documents are replaced with reference to the relevant MN/IN/YN by not later than 31 December 2025.
- 6.3. Copies of relevant documents, in their latest revision, shall be retained on board all Bahamian registered ships and offshore units in a “Flag State file”, either in hard copy or electronically. Companies shall also maintain copies of the relevant documents in their office(s).
- 6.4. Recognised Organisations must ensure that the contents of relevant Notices are incorporated in their procedures relating to their Bahamas delegation.
- 6.5. BMA Approved Nautical Inspectors must ensure that they are familiar with the contents of relevant Notices during their period of appointment.
- 6.6. All Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices include an “effective date”, from which the Notice is effective. All Company Safety Management Systems, Recognised Organisation instructions to surveyors and Bahamas Nautical Inspectors procedures shall incorporate and implement applicable Notices from the effective date stated in the Notice.

## **7. Distribution of Marine Notices and Information Notices**

- 7.1. Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices are not provided in hard copy, but are available on the BMA website <https://www.bahamasmaritime.com>.
- 7.2. Notification of the addition, or revision, of Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices is sent by email to:

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<sup>1</sup> The “Company” is the entity responsible for the management of the ship in accordance with the ISM Code. For ships which the ISM Code is not applicable, the Company is the Managing Owner in accordance with section 52 of the Merchant Shipping Act (Ch.268).

- i. the current Designated Person Ashore (for ships to which the ISM Code applies) or the Manager (as listed on BMA Form R104);
  - ii. Recognised Organisation's central contact point;
  - iii. Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors; and
  - iv. users on the mailing list.
- 7.3. It should be noted that, as the emails are distributed via a mailing list, the BMA cannot guarantee that notifications will be able to pass through all company firewalls.
- 7.4. Email addresses can be added to the mailing list using the sign-up form on the BMA website <http://bahamasmaritime.com/sign-up.php>. If the email address is invalid or an email sent to the address is rejected, the email address will automatically be removed from the list.
- 7.5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 7.2, it is the responsibility of all companies and Bahamas Nautical Inspectors to regularly review the BMA website for the latest revisions of Marine Notices, Information Notices and Yacht Notices and ensure that these are implemented accordingly.
- 7.6. A list of the last 10 Notices issued/updated is shown on the BMA website at [http://bahamasmaritime.com/bulletins\\_latest.php](http://bahamasmaritime.com/bulletins_latest.php).

## **8. Bahamas National Requirements**

- 8.1. The Bahamas National Requirements (BNR) was first published in 2007 as a reference source for BMA requirements and interpretations.
- 8.2. Where a topic that is currently included in the BNR is also addressed in a new MN, the content from the BNR will be transferred to the MN. The relevant section of the BNR will then be simplified to provide a link to the relevant MN.
- 8.3. MNs will contain a reference in the header to any section of the BNR that has been incorporated.

