

Bridge Navigational Watch Alarm System (BNWAS)

Amended Rules and Guidance

Rules for Safety Equipment
Guidance for Safety Equipment

Reason for Amendment

At the 81st Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 81) held in May 2006, the IMO began considering making the installation of a Bridge Navigational Watch Alarm System (BNWAS) mandatory in order to monitor the performance of the Officer of the Watch (OOW) while on the bridge as a way to prevent marine accidents such as collision and grounding, etc. which may be caused by OOW incapacitation such as sleeping while on duty, etc.

The deliberations continued until the 86th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 86) held in June 2009 where an amendment to the SOLAS Convention Chapter V related to the installation of BNWAS was adopted as Resolution MSC.282(86). This new amendment is scheduled to take effect in stages from 1 July 2011.

Accordingly, all relevant requirements are amended in accordance with Resolution MSC.282(86).

Outline of Amendment

Requirements regarding the performance of BNWAS have been specified.

*) The purpose of a BNWAS is to monitor bridge activity and detect any OOW incapacitation which could lead to a marine accident. The system monitors the awareness of the OOW and automatically alerts the Master or another qualified OOW if the OOW becomes incapable of performing the OOW's duties.