

Subject

In-water survey of Bahamian passenger ships

ClassNK

Technical Information

No. TEC-0637
Date 31 August 2005

To whom it may concern

In relation to the subject, the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) has issued a revision notice of their regulation for inspection of the outside of ship's bottom as attached. For the inspection of bottom, which is annually required at renewal survey for passenger ships in Chapter I, Pat B Regulation 7 of the SOLAS 74, this revision has specified the extent of application of in-water survey as follows.

1. The inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom may be carried out in dry-dock twice in every five year period and other annual inspections of the ship's bottom may be carried out in-water provided that the interval between bottom inspections in dry-dock does not exceed 36 months.
2. As an exception for ships less than 15 years of age, application may be made to enable bottom inspection in dry-dock once in a five year cycle as long as relevant Classification Society technically supports such application and BMA accepts it.

As our "RULES FOR THE SURVEYS AND CONSTRUCTION OF PASSENGER SHIPS" stipulate in 5.1.2, Part 2, "any two consecutive Docking Surveys are not to be carried out in water", the revision of Bahamian regulation means relaxation of our rule requirements. In case you would like to apply In-water Survey consecutively as a part of the annual renewal survey, please send your application to the Survey Department for approval not less than 1 month prior to the planed In-water Survey.

For any questions about the above, please contact:

NIPPON KAIJI KYOKAI (ClassNK)
Survey Department, Administration Center, Head Office
Address: 4-7 Kioi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8567, Japan
Tel.: +81-3-5226-2027 / 2028
Fax: +81-3-5226-2029
E-mail: svd@classnk.or.jp

Attachment:

1. Periodical bottom inspection of passenger ships by Bahamas Maritime Authority

NOTES:

- ClassNK Technical Information is provided only for the purpose of supplying current information to its readers.
- ClassNK, its officers, employees and agents or sub-contractors do not warrant the accuracy of the information contained herein and are not liable for any loss, damage or expense sustained whatsoever by any person caused by use of or reliance on this information.
- Back numbers are available on ClassNK Internet Homepage (URL: www.classnk.or.jp).



| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Subject: Periodical bottom inspection of passenger ships | | Regulation: SOLAS 74, as amended Chapter 1, Regulation 7 |
| Number: 3 | Effective Date: 30 March 2005 | Revision: 01 |

1 General

Chapter I, Part B, Regulation 7(b)(ii) of the SOLAS 74, as amended by the 1988 Protocol, requires an inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom to be carried out as part of the annual renewal survey for the issue of a Passenger Ship Safety Certificate. Examination of the vessel bottom is normally to be carried out with the vessel in dry-dock.

2 Inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom in dry-dock and in-water

- 2.1 The availability of technology to satisfactorily examine ships underwater areas while in water is noted. It is also recognised that there is a need to harmonise passenger ship survey requirements between Classification Society and Administration, taking into consideration the survey Guidelines of IMO Assembly Resolution A. 948 (23), as amended. Therefore, for all passenger ships, the inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom in connection with Passenger Ship Safety Certificate renewal survey may be carried out in dry-dock twice in every five year period.
- 2.2 Other than specified in 2.1 above, annual inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom may be carried out in-water provided that;
- The interval between bottom inspection in dry-dock does not exceed 36 months,
 - The ship is arranged for in-water survey of the hull, also propulsion, steering and stabilising apparatus and other protuberances, as deemed necessary by the Classification Society.
- 2.3 Subject to 2.2 above, the Bahamas Maritime Authority will accept an in-water inspection of the ship's bottom in lieu of inspection in dry dock, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:
- The owner/manager shall request the Classification Society to approve the in-water inspection at least four weeks in advance of the intended survey. The proposed schedule and the conditions for performing the in-water inspection shall be acceptable to the Classification Society in order to enable an effective survey to be carried out.
 - The Master of the vessel shall confirm in writing that the vessel, to his best knowledge, has not sustained any grounding or contact since the previous out of water/dry-docking survey, and that nothing unusual has been observed to suspect any damage to the bottom of the vessel.
 - The Classification Society shall review the vessel survey records to confirm current satisfactory condition of structure.
 - The in-water survey shall be performed under the direct supervision and to the satisfaction of the Classification Society's attending exclusive surveyor(s) and shall include video recording of the condition of the vessel hull.

3 Exceptions

- 3.1 For ships less than 15 years of age, application may be made to enable bottom inspection in dry-dock once in a five year cycle on the proviso that the interval between dry-dockings does not exceed 5 years. All such applications shall be supported by additional special technical information, including confirmation that the proposed surveys are permissible under the rules of the relevant Classification Society, shall be brought to the attention of the BMA via the relevant Classification Society for consideration.
- 3.2 The Classification Society shall advise the BMA of the outcome of any in-water survey which identifies the need for a further examination of the vessel and/or remedial action to be taken with the ship in dry-dock. In such cases, the BMA may require the ship to be dry-docked.

4 Inspection window

The bottom inspection, either performed in water or out of water, shall be carried out within the 3 month period preceding the due date of the survey for the renewal of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate, unless otherwise agreed with the Classification Society and the BMA.

5 Applying for in-water inspection

Classification Societies are authorised by this Instruction to directly accept vessels for in-water bottom inspection subject to compliance with the conditions outlined in Section 2 above. Where there is not full compliance with Section 2 above, the application shall be forwarded to the BMA via the Classification Society in accordance with the provisions of Instruction to Classification Societies no. 11.