

M-Notices - January 2012

MSN 1734 (M+F) Amendment 4 — Approval of Marine Equipment (EC Notified Bodies)

This notice contains a new Annex A.1 to Merchant Shipping Notice MSN 1734. The new annex updates the international standards used as a basis for type approval for marine equipment. It also provides for transitional arrangements for equipment manufactured before 6 April 2010; these apply until 6 April 2012.

MSN 1735 (M+F) Amendment 5 — Approval of Marine Equipment (EC Notified Bodies)

This notice implements changes to the listing of marine equipment in Annex A.2 of the 1996 European Directive 96/98/EC. These changes were made by Directive 2010/68/EC of 22 October 2010 and apply where no detailed internationally-agreed testing standard exists.

MSN 1831 (M+F) — Vessel Traffic Monitoring Notification and Reporting Requirements for Ships and Ports

This notice deals with information to be provided by ships and port authorities in order to comply with the Merchant Shipping (Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements) Regulations 2004 as amended from 25 November 2011.

MSN 1832 (M) — The Merchant Shipping (Port State Control) Regulations 2011

This notice provides information on the Merchant Shipping (Port State Control) Regulations 2011, which implement European Directive 2009/16/EC into UK law. The regulations provide for:

- inspection of foreign flag seagoing ships and their crews calling at UK ports or anchorages to engage in a ship/port interface
- expanded inspections of ships with a high risk profile after 6 months from the previous inspection in the Paris MoU region
- expanded inspections of oil, gas or chemical tankers, bulk carriers or passenger ships, over 12 years of age, at intervals according to their risk profile
- a requirement for owners and masters of ships eligible for expanded inspections to give 72 hours' notice of arrival in port; to allow sufficient time in the operating schedule for an expanded inspection to be carried out; and for the ship to remain in the port until the inspection is completed
- ships of any type which are repeatedly detained will be refused access to ports and anchorages of member states. The period of the refusal of access increases on each occasion and may result in permanent exclusion on the third or fourth occasion
- a requirement for port authorities and pilots, including deep sea pilots, to report apparent anomalies which may pose a risk to safety or to the marine environment
- an obligation on port authorities to provide actual times of arrival and actual times of departure of ships calling at their ports and anchorages

MGN 438 (M+F) — Consolidated European Reporting System (CERS) Exemption Arrangements under the Merchant Shipping (Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements) Regulations 2004 (as amended)

This note describes notification exemption arrangements where allowed under the Merchant Shipping (Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements) Regulations 2004 (as amended). These regulations implement into UK law European Directive 2002/59/EC, which established a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system. MGN 438 sets out the information that is required in support of an application for exemption from the notification of dangerous or polluting goods carried onboard. UK port authorities are responsible for forwarding relevant information to the MCA for capture in the Consolidated European Reporting System (CERS).

MGN 440 (M) — Measures to Counter Piracy, Armed Robbery and Other Acts of Violence against Merchant Shipping

This note provides links to websites containing information on tackling piracy, armed robbery and other acts of violence against merchant shipping. (Note that these links are live when MGN 440 is viewed online, so it is worth seeking it out on the MCA website). MGN 440 includes a link to the Department for Transport's Interim guidance to UK-flagged shipping on the use of armed guards to defend against the threat of piracy in exceptional circumstances, in support of the change in policy.

MIN 420 (M+F) — M-Notice Consultation

As of 31 March 2012, the MCA intends to discontinue paper M-notice subscriptions in response to a significant decline in the number of subscribers to the service. The paper subscription service will be replaced by a free email subscription service. M-notices will also continue to be made available electronically on the MCA website and in paper form through the TSO biennial M-notice compendium.

MIN 420 now invites subscribers to inform the Agency of any factor which may not have been taken into account in making the decision to discontinue the paper subscription service. The response form can be accessed at <http://tinyurl/mnoticeconsultation>