

M-Notices - June 2010 Telegraph

MSN 1735 (M+F) Amendment 4 CORRECTION

This notice gives a correction to Annex A.2 of MSN 1735 (M+F) Amendment 4 – Type approval of marine equipment (UK nominated bodies). The correction adds two sections on item designation for marine engineering equipment and crew accommodation equipment.

MSN 1823 (M) and MIN 384 (M) – Safety code for passenger ships operating solely in UK categorised waters

These notices announce the introduction of a new mandatory safety code applicable to all new passenger ships operating solely in UK categorised waters, except those ships to which the High Speed Craft Code applies.

The code, developed in consultation with surveyors and the marine industry, brings all the technical requirements for the ships into a single comprehensive document. It enhances safety standards by implementing recommendations arising from the formal investigations and safety assessment study undertaken following the loss of the *Marchioness* on the River Thames in 1989.

There is a link to download a copy of the new code at the end of MSN 1823 (M) on the MCA website.

MSN 1824 (M) – EU Directive 2006/87/EC (as amended): laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels

Directive 2006/87/EC (as amended) lays down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels, including construction and equipment standards. It was adopted by the European Parliament and Council in 2006, and is transposed into UK law by the Merchant Shipping (Technical Standards for Inland Waterway Vessels) Regulations 2010.

The purposes of the directive are to further harmonise vessel standards across EU member states, to improve safety, and to facilitate free movement and competition.

MSN 1824 (M) explains the types of vessel to which the directive applies, and the types of waterway affected – pointing out that EU inland waterways are grouped into four categories, based on the depth of the water and whether or not it is tidal. Particular certification is needed for operation in each category.

The M-notice stresses that there are some exceptions to the EU legislation for vessels operating in UK inland waterways, where a derogation enforces UK requirements instead. The notice also compares the new UK merchant shipping regulations on inland waterways with the original EU directive, highlighting areas in which the UK requirements are more demanding than those of the EU.

Directive 2006/87/EC (as amended) will not normally apply to any vessels certificated for service at sea which are operating temporarily on inland waterways.

MGN 400 (M+F) – Additional guidance on the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) Regulations 2008 as amended by the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) (Amendment) Regulations 2010

This note replaces the interim guidance given in MIN 376 (M+F), giving the definitive position on issues such as:

- the amount of time allowed under the regulations for fuel changeover operations by ships berthed in UK ports
- the meaning of ‘hotelling’ in the regulations
- the logbook recording requirements for fuel changeover operations

Information is also given on how to obtain exemptions from the regulations in particular circumstances, and how to obtain further guidance from the European Commission.

MIN 378 (M+F) – M-Notices: pricing and availability information

There are three types of M-Notice:

- Merchant Shipping Notices (MSNs), which explain or form a part of maritime safety regulations
- Marine Guidance Notes (MGNs), which set out important advice, guidance and strong recommendations about best practice
- Marine Information Notes (MINs), which contain less important time-limited information and changes of address

MIN 378 gives information on how to obtain M-Notices, as of 1 April 2010. This information is also supplied in the Telegraph every month at the end of the M-Notices section.

MIN 385 (M) – Proficiency in medical first aid and medical care certification requirements

This note clarifies which seafarers on UK vessels need STCW Medical First Aid and Medical Care certification, and which of these must undertake refresher training on a periodical basis.

It highlights changes to entry requirements for MCA-approved first aid training; for example, seafarers undertaking their first UK certificate of competency no longer have to fulfil a sea service requirement before beginning a medical proficiency course.

The note also details the particular requirements for masters, and others designated to take charge of medical care on UK-flagged vessels, as laid down in an EU directive covering the training of those using medical supplies.