

PART A

CHAPTER 5

LOAD LINE

5.1 Legal Requirements

5.1.1 The requirements for survey and certification in order to apply the 1966 Load Line Convention to the UK are contained in Regulations 8 to 14 of the Merchant Shipping (Load Line) Regulations 1998, SI 1998/2241, as amended. These regulations are to be read in association with MSN 1752. These regulations apply to all UK ships which go to sea and to other seagoing ships whilst in UK waters (note – exceptions apply to some ships of less than 80 tons net, regulation 4 refers). They apply to vessels on domestic voyages as well as international voyages.

5.1.2 The Load Line Convention was amended in 2004, coming into force in early 2005. New UK regulations to implement this will be published in due course and surveyors are advised to contact Marine Technology Unit if load line surveys on ships are requested before the regulations are published.

5.2 Definitions

5.2.1 Definitions of terms relating to load line and surveys related to the issuance of a Load Line Certificate are described in SI 1998/2241, Reg 2 as amended.

5.3 Responsibility

5.3.1 Surveys are normally conducted by Class for classed ships and MCA for unclassed ships.

5.3.2 Schedule 6, Part II of MSN 1752 and Part B Chapter 8 of these instructions states on which ships Class may conduct Stability approval.

5.4 Surveys Required

5.4.1 The Harmonised System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) applies. The MS (Load Line) Regulations 1998, regulation 8 refers, requiring applicable ships to be subject to the following surveys;-

- **Initial Survey,**
- **Annual Survey,**
- **Renewal Survey.**

5.5 Pre- Survey Actions

5.5.1 The following items shall be checked prior to commencing the survey:

- SIAS
- MCA Survey Files
- Exemption Certificates
- New Legislative requirements
- Class Survey Status (via password protected websites)
- PSC Inspection history

Remarks from previous surveys and outstanding deficiencies must be resolved to the satisfaction of the surveyor before the issue of a renewal Certificate, or the annual endorsement of an existing certificate. Any overdue or postponed conditions of class must be followed up with the attending class surveyor or in the absence of a class surveyor discussed with Survey Operations Branch.

5.5.2 The surveyor/s should ensure that sufficient time will be available for the survey and should liaise with owners beforehand, noting that various options may be available such as more time in port, sailing with the ship for suitable short voyages, providing more than one surveyor and so on.

5.5.3 Where work is to be carried out on behalf of another administration a written request must be obtained from that administration requesting the MCA to carry out the work on their behalf. For REG ships fees are charged at the wider market rate (see Part C Ch2.3).

5.5.4 Surveys should only be commenced on receipt of a completed "Application for Survey" form (MSF 5100) and after sufficient fees have been received. Further guidance on fees is described in Part C, Chapter 2 of these instructions.

5.5.5 The relevant Business Support Unit administration team processes the application. CERS/SVD must be interrogated to ensure that the correct ship is on the system; if the vessel is not yet on the system (e.g. newbuild, flag-in), the Administrator (TST) should be contacted, who will check the details and arrange for the vessel to be added to the Single Vessel Database (SVD) if appropriate. A "job control sheet" (MSF 5108) is produced which is then tracked for charter standard purposes. This is then passed to the Manager, or other person nominated by them, who then appoints the Lead Surveyor (LS) for the survey.

5.6 Items to be surveyed

5.6.1 The survey is to be carried out using the relevant instructions, guidance notes and HQ advice, which may be found on MLD/SCMS. Surveyors should be mindful of their own health and safety during surveys and take account of all guidance provided by MCA as well as their professional judgement in relation to the prevailing circumstances

5.6.2 Those **items** associated with the 'Assignment of Freeboard'-regulations 7, 28 and 29 and Schedule 4 of MSN 1752 refer, and the 'Conditions of Assignment' – regulations 25 and 26 and Schedule 2 of MSN 1752 refer. The ship is required to be surveyed to ensure that it is of adequate strength, that all hull openings including hatchways have effective means of closure, that the structures used for crew accommodation are of efficient construction, that a suitable arrangement of freeing ports is provided and that the position of the load line marks have been correctly determined and recorded on the ship's sides. In addition it is necessary to ensure that each ship is provided with stability information (and where appropriate, damaged stability information) which has been properly prepared and based upon the results of an efficiently conducted inclining test. In the case of bulk carriers of 150m in length and over it is also necessary to ensure that suitable loading information is available. Approval of stability information shall be made in accordance with Regulation 32(5) of the Merchant Shipping (Load Line) Regulations 1998 SI 1998/ 2241.

5.6.3 An *aide memoire*, MSF 5513, listing surveyable items is available from the Master List of Documents and SCMS library.

5.7 Post Survey Actions

5.7.1 Deficiencies

5.7.1.1 The lead surveyor is responsible for recording and closing out any deficiencies found during the survey/s in the SIAS database, in accordance with the requirements of Part C Chapter 4 of these instructions.

5.7.2 Declarations & Certificates

5.7.2.1 The requirements relating to the issue, type, duration, extension and cancellation of certificates are given in regulations 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 of the Load Line Regulations.

5.7.2.2 On completion of a survey, the lead surveyor prepares the certificate, following the guidance in Part C Chapter 3 of these instructions, along with appropriate reports of survey (MSF 2012, 2014).

5.7.2.3 When satisfactory surveys have been undertaken the following certificates, as appropriate, should be issued:-

- **International Load Line Certificate** (MSF 2005), to ships of 24m¹ in length and over, valid for a period not exceeding 5 years,

¹ For ships built after 21 July 1968. If built prior to this date replace reference to '24m in length' with '150GT'

- **United Kingdom Load Line Certificate** (MSF 2006), to ships less than 24m¹ in length, valid for a period not exceeding 5 years

Note that the difference between a 'UK' and 'International' certificate relates to the size of the ship and not to whether the ship operates internationally.

5.7.2.4 Annual Survey Endorsement

5.7.2.4.1 On completion of the annual survey, the certificate should be endorsed accordingly.

5.7.2.4.2 Any endorsements made to the owner's copy of the certificate should also be recorded on the file copy of the certificate (or by adding a photocopy of the endorsement page to the file), and on the electronic version of the form, on return to the office.

5.7.3 Review of Exemptions

5.7.3.1 Any exemption or equivalents must be reviewed to ensure they are still current and that the qualifying conditions are complied with. Guidance on exemptions and equivalents are described in PtB Ch4 of these instructions.

5.7.4 Documents & Records

5.7.4.1 The table below describes the minimum documents to be completed and filed following a survey.

Item	Record
Record on SIAS?	Yes MSF 1602/3 survey & inspection deficiencies
Place copy on registered file, CM.../11/01	Yes Int'l/UK Load Line Certificate. MCA Declaration. MSF1602/3 forms. Annual endorsement Relevant test reports/ results Surveys for freeboard (MSF 2010) Record of Particulars Relating to Conditions of Assignment (MSF 2011) Report of Survey (MSF 2012 or 2014) Loading & ballasting information (Type A ships and bulk carriers >150m) Drawings Photographs Exemptions
Minute required on registered file?	Yes
Report Class Related deficiency to	Yes

Survey Operations Branch?	MSF 1923
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5.7.5 Fees

5.7.5.1 The Job Control Sheet must be closed out and sent to the relevant Business Unit so that fee accounts may be balanced and relevant refunds made to the customer.

5.8 Flow Chart

None

5.9 Special Instructions and Guidance

5.9.1 Load Line Exemption Certificates

5.9.1.1 Care should be taken when considering the issue of UK or International Load Line Exemption Certificates, as the parameters for 'UK' versus 'International' exemption certification are different to those for other Exemption Certificates. Regulations 5 and 12 of the Load Line Regulations, Part 1 of the 'Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors on Load Line' and Part B Chapter 4 of these instructions refer.

5.10 References

5.10.1 Detailed survey guidance and amplification of the regulatory requirements can be found in 'Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors on Load Line'.

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