

## **PART A**

### **CHAPTER 14**

#### **CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS – CHEMICAL TANKERS**

##### **14.1 Legal Requirements**

14.1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Dangerous or Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk) Regulations 1996, SI 1996 No.3010, as amended, in conjunction with MSN 1703 (NLS.1) implement the requirements of MARPOL Annex II in the UK. Regulation 6 prohibits the loading of noxious liquid substances in bulk unless the ship has a Noxious Liquid Substances certificate or appropriate chemical tanker certificate. Regulation 4(2) and 4(3) give effect to two IMO Codes i.e. BCH and IBC Codes. Oil and gas tankers carrying noxious liquid substances in bulk are required to be issued with an INLS certificate – see Part A Chapter 13. When INLS requirements apply and a Certificate of Fitness (CoF) is issued it covers both regulations and only a CoF is needed.

##### **14.2 Definitions**

14.2.1 Definitions of terms relating to the carriage Dangerous or Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk and surveys related to the issuance of a Certificate of Fitness are described in SI 1996/ 3010 as amended, regulation 2 and chapter 1 of the BCH and IBC Code.

##### **14.3 Responsibility**

###### **14.3.1 Surveyors**

14.3.1.1 Shipboard Marine Pollution Emergency Plans (SMPEPs) are approved by MCA except for ACS ships.

14.3.1.2 Procedures and Arrangements manuals, for non ACS ships, should be approved by class and then forwarded to MCA so the lead surveyor can annotate the front page to indicate the manual is acceptable to the UK. Marine Offices should place a copy of the manual and CoF on file and forward to Environmental Policy Branch for verification.

14.3.1.3 Some classification societies have been given full delegation for these surveys. Refer to Survey Operations Branch if a survey is requested. Class authorisations can be checked on the M-Net survey microsite.

##### **14.4 Surveys Required**

14.4.1 The Harmonised System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) applies. Ships are subject to the following surveys;-

- an **Initial Survey**,
- an **Annual Survey**,
- an **Intermediate Survey**,
- a **Renewal Survey**.

## 14.5 Pre-Survey Actions

14.5.1 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 International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk, 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.

14.5.2 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.

14.5.3 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).

14.5.4 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.

14.5.5 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.

## 14.6 Items to be surveyed

14.6.1 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.

14.6.2 Regulations 4 and 9 require that the structure, equipment, systems, fittings, arrangements and materials, must be surveyed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the following codes:

- the 'Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk' (the BCH Code), for ships built prior to July 1986; and the
- 'International Code for the Construction and Equipment of ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk' (the IBC Code), this for ships built after July 1986.

14.6.3 Aide *memoires* MSF 5511 (initial surveys) and MSF 5512 (resurveys) list items that should be surveyed and are available on the Master List of Documents and SCMS library.

## 14.7 Post Survey Actions

### 14.7.1 Deficiencies

14.7.1.1 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.

### 14.7.2 Declarations & Certificates

14.7.2.1 The requirements relating to the type, duration, issue and revocation of certificates are contained in Regulation 11.

14.7.2.2 On completion of a survey, the lead surveyor prepares the certificate, following the guidance in Part C Chapter 3 of these instructions.

14.7.2.3 When satisfactory initial/renewal surveys have been completed the following certificates, should be issued:-

- for a chemical tanker, a **Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk** (MSF 3001), where BCH code applies or

- an **International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk** (MSF 3004), where IBC code applies

valid for a period not exceeding 5 years.

#### 14.7.2.4 Annual/Intermediate Survey Endorsement

14.7.2.4.1 On completion of the annual or intermediate survey, the certificate should be endorsed accordingly.

14.7.2.4.2 The 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> annual survey must be an intermediate survey; the endorsement for the same needs to be made by deleting “annual” in the endorsement panel on page 2 of the certificate. When conducting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual survey in particular this needs to be borne in mind to ensure that one of the surveys is marked (and conducted) as “intermediate”.

14.7.2.4.3 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.

#### 14.7.3 Review of Exemptions

14.7.3.1 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 Part B Chapter 4 of these instructions.

#### 14.7.4 Documents & Records

14.7.4.1 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.../29/01	Yes Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (MSF 3001 where BCH Code applies) <b>or</b> (MSF 3004 where IBC Code applies) Complete/ Partial MCA Declaration. MSF1602/3 forms. Annual/intermediate endorsement P&A Manual Relevant test reports/ results Drawings Photographs

	<b>Exemptions</b>
Minute required on registered file?	Yes
Report Class Related deficiency to Survey Operations Branch?	Yes MSF 1923

#### **14.7.5 Fees**

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

#### **14.8 Flow Chart**

None.

#### **14.9 Special Instructions and Guidance**

None

#### **14.10 References**

14.10.1 Guidance and advice on survey procedure is given in **Part B, Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4** of these instructions. Additional advice will be found in the various Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors, namely:

- MSIS 20 Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors on the 'Survey of Chemical Tankers'.

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