

Appendix A - MARINE EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE

The Marine Equipment Directive (MED) 96/98/EC of 20 December 1996 covers certain equipment carried and used on ships registered under the flags of European Union member states.

The Directive applies from 1 January 1999 and aims to ensure that equipment meets the requirements of international conventions such as SOLAS and MARPOL and achieves a common standard of safety and performance. It also ensures that certificates issued by European Union member states are acceptable to each member state through the harmonisation of their approval requirements. Annex A.1 of the Marine Equipment Directive lists products with international testing standards and Annex A.2 lists those products without an agreed international standard.

The Merchant Shipping (Delegation of Type Approval) Regulations 1996 SI 1996 No 147 provide for Nominated Bodies to undertake `type approval` of marine equipment, of a safety or pollution prevention nature, for use on United Kingdom ships. This legislation was supplemented by the Merchant Shipping (Marine Equipment) Regulations 1999 SI No 1957 which implemented Directive 96/98/EC.

In response to changes in the development of testing standards, the Commission has issued amending Directives to 96/98/EC which updates the list of equipment for which no agreed international testing standard exists. Further details can be found in Merchant Shipping Notice 1734 `Type-Approval of Marine Equipment (EC Notified Bodies)` and Merchant Shipping Notice 1735 `Type-Approval of Marine Equipment (UK Nominated Bodies).

Merchant Shipping Notices are available on the MCA website at www.mcga.gov.uk at Guidance and Regulations. The text of EU Directives can be found on the EUR-Lex website (europa.eu.int/eur-lex).