

## PART A

### CHAPTER 22

#### SUBMERSIBLE CRAFT

##### 22.1 Legal Requirements

22.1.1 The requirements relating to the survey and certification of submersible craft are contained in the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft Construction and Survey) Regulations 1981, SI 1981/1098, as amended. These Regulations prescribe the requirements which apply to the construction, survey, operation and certification of manned mobile submersible craft (not diving bells) and their supporting equipment. The requirements relating to the operations of a submersible craft are prescribed in the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft Operations) Regulations 1987, SI 2002/1587, as amended. The contents of MSN 1300 should also be noted. The requirements apply to a submersible craft and its supporting equipment when operating on a commercial basis in UK waters, or when launched, recovered, operated or supported from or which comprise a UK ship.

##### 22.2 Definitions

22.2.1 Definitions of terms relating to a submersible craft and its supporting equipment and surveys related to the issuance of a Certificate of Safety are described in SI 1981/1098, as amended.

##### 22.3 Responsibility

###### 22.3.1 Surveyors

22.3.1.1 The regulations require that surveys are conducted by an MCA surveyor or by a surveyor of a UK recognised classification society. Surveys of submersible craft are normally undertaken by a classification society surveyor; requests for MCA survey should be referred to Survey Operations Branch.

22.3.1.2 MCA will audit the operational aspects and issue the ISM certificates for passenger craft.

##### 22.4 Surveys Required

22.4.1 Regulation 3 of SI 1981/1098 requires submersible craft and their supporting equipment to be subjected to the following surveys;-

- an **Initial Survey**,

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

22.4.2 For a passenger submersible craft, the MCA policy is to follow the recommendations of IMO **MSC Circular 981**, **as amended by MSC Circular 1125**, and make the holding of ISM Code certification a requirement for the continued validity of the safety certificate for the craft. Annual SMC audits will be carried out instead of the normal intermediate audit.

## **22.5 Pre- Survey Actions**

22.5.1 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 (if applicable)

Remarks from previous surveys and outstanding deficiencies must be resolved to the satisfaction of the surveyor before the issue of a renewal Certificate of Safety, or the annual endorsement of an existing certificate.

22.5.2 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.

22.5.3 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.

22.5.4 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.

## **22.6 Items to be surveyed**

22.6.1 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

22.6.2 Regulation 3 of SI 1981/1098 refers to the items which are required to be surveyed, which include the craft and its supporting equipment. These items are covered in detail in the three Schedules to the Regulations.

22.6.3 There are no aide memoires available for these surveys.

## 22.7 Post Survey Actions

### 22.7.1 Deficiencies

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.

### 22.7.2 Declarations & Certificates

22.7.2.1 The requirements relating to the issue of certificates, i.e. type, format, extension, cancellation, issuing authority etc., are given in regulations 5 and 6 of the Merchant Shipping (Submersible Craft Construction and Survey) Regulations 1981, as amended.

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

22.7.2.3 When satisfactory surveys have been completed a Certificate of Safety for Submersible Craft and its Supporting Equipment should be issued valid for a period not exceeding 2 years. As this survey has been delegated to Class this certificate is not on the MLD.

22.7.2.4 For passenger craft ISM Code certificates must be issued – a **Document of Compliance (Non SOLAS) (Passenger Submersible Craft)** (MSF 1914) to the company and a **Safety Management Certificate (Non SOLAS) (Passenger Submersible Craft)** (MSF 1917) to the craft.

### 22.7.3 Review of Exemptions

22.7.3.1 Any exemption or equivalent 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.

#### 22.7.4 Documents & Records

22.7.4.1 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.../38/01	Yes Relevant Certificate of Safety Complete/ Partial MCA Declaration. MSF 1602/3 forms Relevant test reports/ results, drawings and photographs Exemptions
Minute required on registered file?	Yes
Report Class Related deficiency to Survey Operations Branch?	Yes MSF 1923

#### 22.8 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.

#### 22.9 Flow Chart

None.

#### 22.10 Special Instructions and Guidance

None.

#### 22.11 References

22.11.1 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;-

- 'Survey of Submersible Craft'

- 'International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention - The ISM Code'

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