

PART A

CHAPTER 6

TONNAGE

6.1 Legal Requirements

6.1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 1997, SI 1997/ 1510 as amended apply the 1969 International Tonnage Convention (ITC 69) to the UK. These regulations apply to all UK ships, other than fishing vessels of less than 15 metres, registered, or to be registered in the United Kingdom. Part II deals with ships of 24 metres in length and over, Part IIA deals with fishing vessels of 15 metres and over but less than 24 metres and Part III deals with ships, other than fishing vessels, under 24 metres in length. It should be noted that under Part IV, the tonnage of non UK ships may also be ascertained in accordance with these regulations, if so requested by the flag Administration.

6.1.2 The requirements relating to the survey and certification of fishing vessels under 15 metres are contained in The Merchant Shipping (Fishing Vessels-Tonnage) Regulations 1988, SI 1988/1909 as amended.

6.1.3 In UK law, tonnage is generally only a requirement if the ship is registered. However the ITC 69 requires a certificate whether registered or not and a ship is likely to be detained abroad if one is not available. In the UK, as many safety and pollution prevention regulations depend on the tonnage of a ship, the ship will still need to be measured and therefore a certificate will usually be issued.

6.1.4 The UK has no statutory requirement for **Panama or Suez Tonnage certificates** and their provision is for the owners to arrange, usually with the classification society.

6.2 Definitions

6.2.1 Definitions of terms relating to tonnage and surveys related to the issuance of a Tonnage Certificate are described in SIs 1997/1510 and 1988/1909, as amended.

6.3 Responsibility

6.3.1 *Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 1997*

6.3.1.1 Those who are authorised to conduct surveys and issue certificates are governed by regulation 2 (*definitions*; 'surveyor' - means a surveyor appointed by

a Certifying Authority) and 12B ('authorised measurer' means a measurer appointed by an organisation authorised for the purposes of the relevant Part of the Regulations by the Secretary of State).

6.3.2 Merchant Shipping (Fishing Vessels – Tonnage) Regulations

6.3.2.1 For fishing vessels less than 15 metres in length, those who are authorised to conduct surveys and issue certificates are governed by regulation 2 ('Authorised measurer' means a person appointed by an organisation authorised by the Secretary of State for this purpose). See the procedure in the Instructions on Survey and Inspection of Fishing Vessels (MSIS 27).

6.4 Surveys Required

6.4.1 All ships are required to be surveyed/ measured prior to being registered. They need only be re-surveyed/ re-measured if alterations are made which effect the tonnage initially assigned to them, e.g., changes to the construction, capacity or use of spaces, number of passengers, etc.

6.5 Pre- Survey Actions

6.5.1 The surveyor/s should ensure that sufficient time will be available for the survey and should liaise with owners beforehand.

6.5.2 Where work is to be carried out on behalf of a Foreign Administration a written request must first be obtained from that Administration requesting the MCA to carry out the work on their behalf.

6.5.3 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.

6.5.4 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.

6.6 Items to be surveyed

6.6.1 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

6.6.2 The Tonnage Regulations adequately explain the detail of survey and measurement of tonnage. If further advice is required, refer to Marine Technology Branch.

6.7 Post Survey Actions

6.7.1 Declaration and Certificates

6.7.1.1 The requirements relating to the type, issue and cancellation of certificates are contained in the regulations.

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

6.7.1.3 When satisfactory surveys/measurements have been undertaken, the following certificates, as appropriate, should be issued:

- an **International Tonnage Certificate** (1969) (MSF 2300),
- a **Certificate of Measurement** (MSF 2301 or 2301A) for fishing vessels <24 metres LOA

6.7.2 Documentation and Records

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

Item	Record
Record on SIAS?	Yes MSF1602/3 survey & inspection deficiencies
Place copy on registered file, CM.../22/01 (ships) or CM.../31/06 (FV's)	Yes International Tonnage Certificate or Certificate of Measurement MCA Declaration. MSF 1602/3 forms. Relevant test reports/ results Drawings Photographs Exemptions

Minute required on registered file?	Yes
Report Class Related deficiency to Survey Operations Branch?	Yes MSF1923

6.7.3 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. See Part C Chapter 2 of these instructions.

6.8 Flow Chart

None.

6.9 Special Instructions and Guidance

6.9.1 Interim Scheme for tonnage measurement (IMO Resolution A.434(XII))

6.9.1.1 At the request of a ship owner, the Administration may allow a ship required to be measured under the provisions ITC 69 to use the gross tonnage measured under the national tonnage rules which were in effect prior to the coming into force of ITC 69 for the purpose of application of the provisions of SOLAS, such tonnage shall not be shown on the ITC.

6.9.1.2 For such a ship, the appropriate box in the pertinent SOLAS certificate may show only the gross tonnage measured under the national tonnage rules in effect prior to the coming into force of ITC 69 with the following footnote: "The above gross tonnage has been measured by the tonnage authorities of the Administration in accordance with the national tonnage rules which were in force prior to the coming into force of ITC 69".

6.9.1.3 This Interim scheme shall not apply to ships the keels of which were laid after 31 Dec 1985 with the following exceptions:

- 1) in respect of the requirements of Reg 3 of SOLAS 1974 for ships the keels of which are laid before 18 July 1994, the Administration may continue to apply the interim scheme, in which case the above mentioned entry should be made in the Safety Radio certificate
- 2) In respect of the regulations for cargo ships of less than 1600 gross tonnage (as measured under national systems), the keels of which were laid after 31 Dec 1985, the Administration may continue to apply the interim scheme until 18 July 1994.

This Interim scheme is not applicable for the purposes of ISM / ISPS.

Author	Prasad Panicker	Branch	ISM/ISO Policy
Approved by	Paul Owen	Branch	Survey Operations
Authorised by	T Elder	Branch	Tech Performance