

PART B

CHAPTER 6

REGISTRATION OF SHIPS

6.1 Legal Requirements

6.1.1 The survey and certification requirements are contained in The Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Regulations 1993; SI 1993 No. 3138, as amended. Registration is only permitted to those ships owned by suitably qualified persons as defined in regulations 7, 12 and 13.

6.1.2 UK certificates can be issued to unregistered ships operating in UK, waters following normal surveys, however certificates for international voyages can not. Regulation 18 of the Merchant Shipping (Survey and Certification) Regulations 2015 refers, regulation 17 not being applicable as the ship cannot demonstrate it is the property of a Convention country without a registration certificate.

6.2 Registration Procedure

Detailed advice and guidance on the procedure to be adopted when registering British ships – i.e. in respect of; ‘application’, ‘surveys’, ‘official number’, ‘carving & marking note’ and ‘certificate of registry’ is given in MSN 1675.

6.3 Items to be Surveyed

The Regulations, 29 to 34 inclusively, require that a ship which is to be registered to be surveyed and measured to ensure that the tonnage has been properly ascertained and that the markings – name, port of registry, official number, IMO number, tonnages and, in the case of fishing vessels, engine power have been correctly located and recorded.

6.4 Surveys Required

The Regulations require, under regulation 29, a ship which is, or is to be, registered, to be initially surveyed and measured prior to it being registered. It will only be necessary to conduct a further survey of the items associated with registration if changes to such items have been made. The correct marking of the name and number on the ship must be verified.

6.5 Certification

6.5.1 The requirements relating to the issue, type and duration of certificates are given in regulations 37 and 39. When a satisfactory survey has been conducted a **Certificate of Survey** (MSF 2302, 2304 or class society equivalent) should be issued detailing the ships particulars.

6.5.2 Following verification of marking the **Carving and Marking Note**, issued by RSS, can be signed by the attending surveyor.

6.5.3 Both of the above should be forwarded to the Registrar as well as appropriate evidence provided by the ship owner, the Registrar will issue a **Certificate of Registry**, which will normally be valid for a period not exceeding 5 years.

6.6 Surveyors

Certificates of survey and tonnage certificates are normally issued by the class society. For unclassified vessels MCA may issue the certificates – see also Part A Chapter 6 of these instructions. The carving and marking note will be signed by the surveyor carrying out change of flag or newbuild surveys; either an MCA surveyor or a Class surveyor appointed by MCA for the purpose.

6.7 Existing Ships

RSS will require owners to complete similar formalities for an existing ship as required for new ships, but may accept such evidence as existing tonnage certificates for measurement purposes for up to 3 months within which period a UK ITC 69 Tonnage certificate will be required by the Registrar. They also require confirmation of deletion from the previous flag.

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