

PART A

CHAPTER 24

Vessels Standing By Offshore Installations (Emergency Response & Rescue Vessels), including ERRV Daughter Craft

24.1 Legal Requirements

24.1.1 The Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion, and Emergency Response) Regulations 1995 (SI 1995 No.743) (PFEER) are the principal legislation governing offshore emergency response, including the provision of appropriate measures to achieve it. In United Kingdom territorial waters adjacent to Northern Ireland, the Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion, and Emergency Response) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (SR 1995 No 345) apply.

24.1.2 In order that the Safety Cases required by the above regulations might demonstrate satisfactory arrangements for emergencies, the various groups of offshore installation operators have agreed the content of the 'Oil & Gas UK – ERRVA Emergency Response & Rescue Vessel Survey Guidelines'. These are non statutory and in addition to normal marine certification requirements, however the offshore installation operators have agreed not to charter a standby vessel for service in the UK sector without certification showing compliance with the Guidelines.

24.2 Definitions

24.2.1 Definitions of terms relating to emergency response and rescue vessels and surveys related to the issuance of a Certificate of Survey are described in the 'Oil & Gas UK – ERRVA Emergency Response & Rescue Vessel Survey Guidelines'.

24.2.2 Acronyms used in relation to vessels standing by offshore installations:

'ERRV' – Emergency Response and Rescue Vessel
'ERRVA' – Emergency Response and Rescue Vessel Association
'UKOOA' – Former name of Oil & Gas UK

24.3 Responsibility

24.3.1 Under the Guidelines, initial and renewal surveys must be carried out by MCA, however annual surveys may be carried out by MCA or a classification society.

24.3.2 Surveys of the additional radio requirements are conducted by authorised persons. Since authorised persons will also be Class approved these surveys will usually be carried out by the same person in conjunction with the Safety Radio survey, and a Declaration of Radio Survey for a Standby Vessel Certificate with Record of Equipment forwarded to the MCA, MGN 392 refers.

24.3.3 Surveys for issue of a Load Line Exemption Certificate for a daughter craft, as laid out in Section 5.4.2 of the Survey Guidelines, must be conducted by the MCA. Either MCA or a classification society can accept the vessel as an Offshore Rescue Daughter Craft, as per 5.4.3 of the Survey Guidelines.

24.4 Surveys Required

24.4.1 The Harmonised System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) does not apply, however it is recommended that surveys and certification are harmonised with the Safety Equipment Certificate where practicable. Surveys required by Chapter 1 of the Survey Guidelines are:

- an **Initial Survey**,
- an **Annual Survey**, within three months before or after each anniversary date of the Certificate,
- a **Renewal Survey**.

24.5 Pre-survey Actions

24.5.1 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 the Certificate of Survey. 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.

24.5.2 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.

24.5.3 The Survey Guidelines apply to any vessel operating on the UK continental shelf, regardless of flag. No request is required from the Flag

Administration for work to be conducted under the Survey Guidelines on foreign vessels.

24.5.4 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.

24.5.5 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 “Survey Works Order” 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.

24.6 Items to be surveyed

24.6.1 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.

24.6.2 Items to be surveyed are listed in the Survey Guidelines and include propulsion, manoeuvrability, survivor capacity (accommodation and supplies), medical facilities, rescue capabilities and communications equipment.

24.6.3 An *aide memoire*, MSF 5562, listing items that may be surveyed is available from the Master List of Documents and SCMS library. *Aide memoire* MSF 5544 also lists items to be surveyed for a Load Line Exemption for a daughter craft operating from the standby vessel.

24.7 Post Survey Actions

24.7.1 Deficiencies

24.7.1.1 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.

24.7.2 Declaration and Certificates

24.7.2.1 The requirements relating to the issue of certificates is given in Chapter 1 of the Survey Guidelines.

24.7.2.2 Where Partial Surveys are held, guidance in Part A Chapter 1, section 1.9.2.1, of these instructions should be followed.

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

24.7.2.4 Following satisfactory survey a **Certificate of Survey of Vessel Standing By Offshore Installations** (MSF 1404) valid for up to 5 years should be issued.

24.7.2.5 Annual Survey Endorsement

24.7.2.5.1 On completion of the annual survey, the certificate should be endorsed accordingly.

24.7.2.5.2 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.

24.7.3 Review of Exemptions

24.7.3.1 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.

24.7.4 Documentation and Records

24.7.4.1 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.../30/01	Yes Certificate MSF1404 MCA Declaration (Report of Survey) Radio Declaration(s) MSF 1602/3 Aide memoire MSF 5562 if it has additional information. Annual endorsement Relevant test reports/ results, drawings and photographs Exemptions
Minute required on registered file?	Yes
Report Class Related deficiency to Survey Operations Branch?	Yes, if applicable MSF1923

24.7.5 Fees

24.7.5.1 The **Survey Works Order** 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.

24.8 Flow Chart (If helpful)

None

24.9 Special Instructions and Guidance

24.9.1 Certification of foreign-flagged vessels

24.9.1.1 The Survey Guidelines also apply to foreign-flagged vessels operating in the UK sector, therefore such vessels can be surveyed and certificated as above.

24.9.1.2 Foreign-flagged vessels operating outside the UK sector do not come under the Survey Guidelines and should not be surveyed or certificated by MCA, unless agreed with Survey Operations Branch.

24.10 References

None.

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