

## **PART A**

### **CHAPTER 15**

#### **CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS – GAS CARRIERS**

##### **15.1 Legal Requirements**

15.1.1 The Merchant Shipping (Gas Carriers) Regulations 1994, SI 1994 No.2464, as amended, in association with MSN 1717 are applicable with regulation 4 specifying survey requirements. These regulations give effect to the 'International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk' (1983 IGC Code) published by the IMO in 1983 and revised for 'new' ships in 1993 (1993 IGC Code), regulation 2 refers. The regulations apply to gas carriers built after 1 July 1986. The 2016 IGC Code entered into force internationally on 1 January 2016, applicable to gas carriers built after 1 July 2016, however it has not yet been given legal effect in the UK.

15.1.2 The Merchant Shipping (Dangerous Goods and Marine Pollutants) Regulations 1997 regulation 20 requires that dangerous goods must be handled safely and goes on to specify that where gases are listed in one of the IMO Codes quoted that those gases must be carried in accordance with the terms of that Code.

15.1.3 For gas carriers built before 31/10/76 the IMO 'Code for Existing Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk' (IMO Resolution A.329 (IX) is applicable, and for ships built from 31/10/76 – 30/6/86 the 'Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk' is applicable.

##### **15.2 Definitions**

15.2.1 Definitions of terms relating to the carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk and surveys related to the issuance of a Certificate of Fitness are described in SI 1994 No.2464, as amended, regulation 1(2) and chapter 1 of the relevant Gas Codes.

##### **15.3 Responsibility**

15.3.1 Some classification societies have been given full delegation for these surveys. Refer to Survey Operations Branch if a survey is requested. Class authorisations can be checked on the M-Net Survey microsite.

##### **15.4 Surveys Required**

15.4.1 The Harmonised System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) applies. Ships are subject to the following surveys:

- an **Initial Survey**,
- an **Annual Survey**, within three months before or after each anniversary date of the Certificate, other than where an intermediate survey is required,
- an **Intermediate Survey**, within three months before or after the second or third anniversary date of the Certificate,
- a **Renewal Survey**, at intervals not exceeding five years<sup>1</sup> and up to three months before the expiry of the existing certificate.

## 15.5 Pre-Survey Actions

15.5.1 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 a renewal International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk, or the annual endorsement of an existing certificate. 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.

15.5.2 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.

15.5.3 Where work is to be carried out on behalf of another administration a written request must be obtained from that administration requesting the MCA to carry out the work on their behalf. For **non-UK flagged ships (including REG)** fees are charged at the wider market rate (see Part C Ch2.3).

15.5.4 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.

15.5.5 The relevant Business Support Unit administration team processes the application. CERS/SVD must be interrogated to ensure that the correct ship is

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<sup>1</sup> Except where the Certificate has been extended in accordance with the IGC Code

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.

## **15.6 Items to be surveyed**

15.6.1 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.

15.6.2 The regulations are directed towards minimising the risks to the ship, its crew and the environment associated with the carriage of liquefied gases and certain other substances listed in chapter 19 of the code. They require that the structure, equipment, systems, fittings, arrangements and materials (other than items in respect of which a Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate, Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate and Cargo Ship Radio Safety Certificate is issued), must be surveyed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the appropriate Code.

15.6.3 Aide *memoires* MSF 5509 (initial surveys) and MSF 5510 (renewal surveys) list items that should be surveyed and are available on the Master List of Documents and SCMS library.

## **15.7 Post Survey Actions**

### **15.7.1 Deficiencies**

15.7.1.1 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.

### **15.7.2 Declarations & Certificates**

15.7.2.1 The requirements relating to the type, duration, issue and revocation of certificates are contained in regulations 6, 6A and 6B.

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

15.7.2.3 When satisfactory surveys have been undertaken the following certificates should be issued depending on year of build. The certificates are usually issued by Environmental Policy Branch at MCA Headquarters.

- a **Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk** (MSF 3017) should be issued for ships built before 31/10/76 valid for a period not exceeding 5 years
- a **Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk** (MSF 3006) should be issued for ships built 31/10/76 - 1/7/86 valid for a period not exceeding 5 years
- an **International Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk** (MSF 3005) should be issued for ships built after 1/7/86 valid for a period not exceeding 5 years

#### 15.7.2.4 Annual/Intermediate Survey Endorsement

15.7.2.4.1 On completion of the annual or intermediate survey, the certificate should be endorsed accordingly.

15.7.2.4.2 The 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> annual survey must be an intermediate survey; the endorsement for the same needs to be made by deleting “annual” in the endorsement panel on the certificate. When conducting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual survey in particular this needs to be borne in mind to ensure that one of the surveys is marked (and conducted) as “intermediate”.

15.7.2.4.3 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.

#### 15.7.3 Review of Exemptions

15.7.3.1 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 Pt B Ch 4 of these instructions.

#### 15.7.4 Documents & Records

15.7.4.1 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.../28/01	Yes Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Liquefied Gases in Bulk (MSF 3017, 3005 or 3006 as applicable) MCA Declaration MSF1602/3 forms.

	Annual/intermediate endorsement Relevant test reports/ results Drawings Photographs Exemptions
Minute required on registered file?	Yes
Report Class Related deficiency to Survey Operations Branch?	Yes, if applicable MSF 1923

### 15.7.5 Fees

15.7.5.1 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.

### 15.8 Flow Chart

None.

### 15.9 Special Instructions and Guidance

None.

### 15.10 References

15.6.2 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:

- MSIS 19 Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors on the 'Survey of Gas Carriers'.

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