

## **ANNEX 14 - ISSUE OF LOADLINE EXEMPTIONS FOR FISHING VESSELS WHICH ARE UNDERTAKING FISHING AS RESEARCH VESSELS NOT AS COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS**

**This Annex Should Be Read In Conjunction with Annex 13 and 15**

### **1.0 General**

1.1 On occasions fishing vessels are employed on contract to undertake "research" fishing. Despite such an activity being "fishing" by nature, the vessel is not acting as a fishing vessel under the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Acts.

1.2 The government is currently funding the Fisheries Science Partnership (FSP) for fishermen and scientists to work in partnership. From this the National Fishermen's Federation Organisation (NFFO) and The Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) have developed a programme to improve knowledge of fish stocks through scientific observation.

1.3 In principle, a fishing vessel which undertakes such work becomes subject to the provisions of the MS Loadline Regulations, the Regulations concerning manning requirements, and the MS (Official Log Books) Regulations. However, in the same manner that guardship duties are allowed, it has been agreed to exempt fishing vessels so employed from these regulations provided that they comply with certain conditions, as set out below.

1.4 It should be noted that, at the time of being under contract to carry observers, a fishing vessel must be in possession of a valid UK Fishing Vessel Certificate and items associated with hull, watertight integrity, freeboard and stability must have been inspected by an MCA surveyor within the preceding 12 months. As such any fishing vessel under 15 m LOA is not eligible for such exemption, and must be surveyed under the Workboat Code to undertake such duties.

1.5 Nothing in this advice note should be construed as a reference to standby vessels.

1.6 Fishing Vessels wishing to have Load Line Exemption Certificates for both Guardship duties and the carriage of research scientists or observers whilst the vessel is employed on contract to undertake research fishing may be issued with a single Load Line Exemption Certificate to cover both operations. Details on this are contained in the procedures set out below and in the procedure set out in Annex 13.

## **2.0 Exemptions**

2.1 Under regulation 5(2) of the Merchant Shipping (Load Line) Regulations 1998, exemption will be given from the following paragraphs of those regulations:-

- .1 For a vessel with a stability book: 6(1)(b), 6(1)(c), 7, 15, & 25
- .2 For a vessel without a stability book: 6(1)(b), 6(1)(d), 7, 15, 25 & 32

## **3.0 Conditions imposed**

1. This exemption shall only extend to a designated area of sampling, within United Kingdom territorial waters, or within sea area A1 & A2 as defined in the Merchant Shipping (Radio) (Fishing Vessels) Regulations (SI 1999/3210).
2. No cargo or passengers are carried, other than the designated number of research scientists/observers. No more than 12 research scientists/observers may be carried.
3. The nearest MCA marine office is informed, in writing, whenever the vessel operates under the terms of this exemption.
4. This certificate must be retained onboard and available to the crew when the vessel is operating under the terms of this exemption to show that the Load Line inspection has been carried out and to display the terms of this exemption.
5. A Fishing Vessel Official Logbook must be carried and maintained.
6. Manning to be in accordance with the FV (Certificate of Deck and Engineer Officers) Regulations 1984 No.1115 as amended.
7. A crew agreement and crew list as required by regulation to be maintained.
8. Vessel to be in possession of a valid UK Fishing Vessel Certificate.
9. The research scientist/observer to be in possession of a certificate demonstrating successful completion of the safety training courses applicable to the nature of the voyage or voyages as set out in Annex 15, and prior to sailing to be briefed by the skipper on the safety equipment.

10. Life Saving appliances to be sufficient to include research scientists/observer(s)

11. Transfer of personnel at sea is not to be carried out except in emergencies

#### **4.0 Procedure**

4.1 Surveyors who are requested to undertake survey for these duties should note that they are equivalent to an annual loadline inspection and should not include other items. Fees are charged to the vessel at the current hourly rate for travel and survey, as laid down in the fees regulations.

4.2 A separate general inspection may be carried out, including adequacy of accommodation for observers.

4.3 If the vessel is less than 24m Registered Length, then MSF 2008 United Kingdom Load Line Exemption Certificate (HSSC Version) should be used. If the vessel is 24m Registered Length and over then you should utilise the United Kingdom Load Line Exemption Certificate – MSF 1000. However, as the survey is an annual requirement the certificate should be issued with validity of one year only and the remainder of the pages cancelled. Upon satisfactory completion of survey, a declaration MSF 1303A, see below, should be completed by the surveyor and submitted to his principal.

4.4 The Exemption should state that the exemption is granted for the carriage of research scientists/observers whilst the vessel is employed under contract to undertake research fishing.

4.5 The regional Principal FV Surveyor should issue the MSF 1000 or MSF 2008.

4.6 A single Load Line Exemption Certificate for Guardships and carrying research scientists/observers may be issued which must include all the conditions set out in this Annex and Annex 13. Any steps set out in Annex 13 which are additional to those set out in this procedure shall also be followed.



**DECLARATION OF LOADLINE EXEMPTION SURVEY  
FOR VESSELS CARRYING SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS**

VESSEL NAME & NUMBER.....

OWNER/AGENT .....

ADDRESS.....

.....

TYPE OF VESSEL.....

HULL TYPE .....

REG. LENGTH.....YEAR OF BUILD .....

DATE OF SURVEY.....LOCATION .....

The items concerning hull, watertight integrity, freeboard & stability, as detailed in chapters 2 and 3 of **MSN 1872 or MSN 1873\***, have been inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition. (\*delete as required)

EXPIRY UKFVC.....

EXPIRY LOADLINE EXEMPTION .....

No. OF OBSERVERS: ..... ADDITIONAL LSA PROVIDED.....

AREA OF SAMPLING:.....

SIGNED ..... MCA SURVEYOR.....

DATE ..... MCA OFFICE .....