



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Technical Services Navigation
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
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Mr Harry Harris

Head of Technical Publishing
Witherby Publishing Group Ltd.,
Navigation House, 3 Almondvale Business Park,
Livingston, Scotland,
EH54 6GA

www.gov.uk/mca

14 September 2023

Dear Mr. Harris

Subject: Witherby Connect (MNA 138/005/0066)

Further to your initial submission in December 2011 relating to your previous software 'Seamanship Library' and your recent email (06/09/2023), in which you sought the views of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) on the Witherby Publishing Group Ltd 'Witherby Connect', please see below the response after review of the software.

Based on the supplementary information provided, and review of the software I can confirm that the MCA recognises 'Witherby Connect', incorporating your electronic library of Merchant Shipping Notices and UK Statutory Instruments as electronic equivalent, enabling ship owners and operators to meet the requirements of the Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations 2020, in respect of the carriage of Merchant Shipping Notices, Marine Guidance Notices and Marine Information Notices.

Compliance however is based on the user ensuring the library is downloaded onto two or more computers on board, to ensure a backup is always immediately available in case of failure of the primary computer and also to ensure that the library can be read in offline mode during periods of internet outage.

This recognition is given on the express understanding that the respective "M Notices" are reproduced by you exactly as published by the MCA, in a read-only format that cannot be altered by another party, and that the software automatically downloads the latest version of the eBooks and guidance notices available on Wetherby's web servers.

The MCA also recognises 'Witherby Connect' as an electronic equivalent for the on-board carriage of IMO instruments such as the SOLAS, MARPOL, Load Line, COLREG and STCW Conventions and UK Regulations when these publications are required to be carried on board by the ship's Safety Management System manual. This recognition is given on the basis that: safeguards are in place to ensure correctness of their contents and prevent illegal copying; the publications incorporate the latest available amendments; and the reproduction of IMO publications complies with the terms of your IMO licence.

Please sign below as acknowledgement of the above and return the signed copy to the MCA.

Yours sincerely:

James Suffield
Nautical Policy Manager
Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Harry Harris
Head of Technical Publishing
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