

RESOLUTION A.789(19) adopted on 23 November 1995  
SPECIFICATIONS ON THE SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION FUNCTIONS  
OF RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION



ASSEMBLY  
19th session  
Agenda item 12

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**SPECIFICATIONS ON THE SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION FUNCTIONS  
OF RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS ACTING  
ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION**

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety and the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships,

REAFFIRMING that ships are to comply at all times with the provisions of relevant international conventions, such as the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, the International Convention on Load Lines (ILLC), 1966 and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, (ILLC) 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), to ensure prevention of maritime casualties and marine pollution from ships,

NOTING that Administrations are responsible for taking the necessary measures to ensure that ships flying their States' flags comply with the provisions of such conventions, including surveys and certification,

NOTING FURTHER that, under regulation I/6 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention and regulation 4 of Annex I and regulation 10 of Annex II of MARPOL 73/78, the Administration may entrust the inspections and surveys to nominated surveyors or recognized organizations, and further that the Administration shall notify the Organization of the specific responsibilities and conditions of the authority delegated to nominated surveyors or recognized organizations,

DESIRING to develop uniform procedures and mechanisms for the delegation of authority to recognized organizations acting on behalf of the Administration, which would assist flag States in the uniform and effective implementation of the relevant IMO conventions,

RECALLING that the Assembly, at its eighteenth session, adopted resolution A.739(18) concerning guidelines for the authorization of organizations acting on behalf of the Administration, whereby the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee were requested to develop, as a matter of urgency, detailed specifications on the precise survey and certification functions of recognized organizations for attachment to the Guidelines,

HAVING CONSIDERED the recommendations made by the Maritime Safety Committee at its sixty-fifth session and the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its thirty-seventh session,

1. **ADOPTS** the Specifications on the Survey and Certification Functions of Recognized Organizations Acting on Behalf of the Administration set out in the Annex to the present resolution;
2. **URGES** Governments as soon as possible to:
  - (a) apply the said Specifications in conjunction with the Annex to resolution A.739(18); and
  - (b) review the standards of already recognized organizations in the light of these Specifications;
3. **REQUESTS** the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee to review these Specifications with a view to improving them as necessary.

## ANNEX

### **SPECIFICATIONS ON THE SURVEY AND CERTIFICATION FUNCTIONS OF RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION**

This document contains minimum specifications for organizations recognized as capable of performing statutory work on behalf of a flag State Administration in terms of certification and survey functions connected with the issuance of international certificates.

The principle of the system described below is to divide the specifications required into different elementary modules with a view to selecting the relevant modules for each function of certification and survey.

#### **AREAS OF INTEREST COVERED BY ELEMENTARY MODULES**

- 1 Management
- 2 Technical appraisal
- 3 Surveys
- 4 Qualifications and training

#### **1 MANAGEMENT**

##### **Module 1A: Management functions**

The management of the Recognized Organization (RO) should have the competence, capability and capacity to organize, manage and control the performance of survey and certification functions in order to verify compliance with requirements relevant to the tasks delegated and should, *inter alia*: provide:

possess an adequate number of competent supervisory, technical appraisal and survey personnel;

provide for the development and maintenance of appropriate procedures and instructions;

provide for the maintenance of up-to-date documentation on interpretation of the relevant instruments;

give technical and administrative support to field staff;

provide for the review of survey reports and provision of experience feedback.

#### **2 TECHNICAL APPRAISAL**

##### **Module 2A: Hull structure**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform the following technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

longitudinal strength;



local scantlings such as plates and stiffeners;  
structural stress, fatigue and buckling analyses;  
materials, welding and other pertinent methods of material-joining,

for compliance with relevant rules and convention requirements pertaining to design, construction and safety.

**Module 2B: Machinery systems**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

propulsion and auxiliary machinery and steering gear;  
piping;  
electrical and automation systems,

for compliance with relevant rules and convention requirements pertaining to design, construction and safety.

**Module 2C: Subdivision and stability**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

intact and damage stability;  
inclining test assessment;  
grain loading stability;  
watertight and weathertight integrity.

**Module 2D: Load line**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform the following technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

freeboard calculation;  
conditions of assignment of freeboard.

**Module 2E: Tonnage**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

tonnage computation.

### **Module 2F: Structural fire protection**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

- structural fire protection and fire isolation;
- use of combustible materials;
- means of escape;
- ventilation systems.

### **Module 2G: Safety equipment**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

- life-saving appliances and arrangements;
- navigation equipment;
- fire detection and fire alarm systems and equipment;
- fire-extinguishing system and equipment;
- fire control plans;
- pilot ladders and pilot hoists;
- lights, shapes and sound signals;
- inert gas systems.

### **Module 2H: Oil pollution prevention**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

- monitoring and control of oil discharge;
- segregation of oil and ballast water;
- crude oil washing;
- protective location of segregated ballast spaces;
- pumping, piping and discharge arrangements;
- shipboard oil pollution emergency plans (SOPEPS).

### **Module 2I: NLS pollution prevention**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

- list of substances the ship may carry;
- pumping system;
- stripping system;
- tank-washing system and equipment;
- underwater discharge arrangements.

### **Module 2J: Radio**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations pertaining to:

- radiotelephony;
- radiotelegraphy;
- GMDSS.

Alternatively, these services may be performed by a professional radio installation inspection service company approved and monitored by the RO according to an established and documented programme. This programme is to include the definition of the specific requirements the company and its radio technicians are to satisfy.

### **Module 2K: Carriage of dangerous chemicals in bulk**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

- ship arrangement and ship survival capacity;
- cargo containment and material of construction;
- cargo temperature control and cargo transfer;
- cargo tank vent systems and environmental control;
- personnel protection;
- operational requirements;
- list of chemicals the ship may carry.

## **Module 2L: Carriage of liquified gases in bulk**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform technical evaluations and/or calculations pertaining to:

- ship arrangement and ship survival capacity;
- cargo containment and material of construction;
- process pressure vessels and liquid, vapour and pressure piping systems;
- cargo tank vent systems and environmental control;
- personnel protection;
- use of cargo as fuel;
- operational requirements.

## **3 SURVEYS**

### **Module 3A: Survey functions**

The RO should have the appropriate competence, capability and capacity to perform the required surveys under controlled conditions as per the RO's internal quality system and representing an adequate geographical coverage and local representation as required. The work to be covered by the staff is described in the relevant sections of the appropriate survey guidelines developed by the Organization.

## **4 QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

### **Module 4A: General qualifications**

RO personnel performing, and responsible for, statutory work should have as a minimum the following formal education:

qualifications from a tertiary institution recognized by the RO within a relevant field of engineering or physical science (minimum two years' programme); or

qualifications from a marine or nautical institution and relevant sea-going experience as a certificated ship officer,

and should have proficiency in the English language commensurate with the work.

Other personnel assisting in the performance of statutory work should have education, training and supervision commensurate with the tasks they are authorized to perform.



The RO should have implemented a documented system for qualification of personnel and continuous updating of their knowledge as appropriate to the tasks they are authorized to undertake. This system should comprise appropriate training courses, including, *inter alia*, international instruments and appropriate procedures related to the certification process, as well as practical tutored training; it should provide documented evidence of satisfactory completion of the training.

#### **Module 4B: Radio survey qualifications**

Surveys may be done by a professional radio installation inspection service company approved and monitored by the RO according to an established and documented programme. This programme is to include the definition of the specific requirements the company and its radio technicians are to satisfy, including, *inter alia*, requirements for internal tutored training covering at least:

radiotelephony;

radiotelegraphy;

GMDSS;

initial and renewal surveys.

Radio technicians carrying out surveys should have successfully completed, as a minimum, at least one year of relevant technical school training, the internal tutored training programme of his/her employer and at least one year of experience as an assistant radio technician. For exclusive radio surveyors to the RO, equivalent requirements as above apply.

### **SPECIFICATIONS PERTAINING TO THE VARIOUS CERTIFICATES**

#### **PASSENGER SHIP SAFETY CERTIFICATE**

##### **Initial certification, renewal survey**

1 Module Nos. 1A, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 2F, 2G, 2J, 3A, 4A and 4B apply.

2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues as appropriate for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: SOLAS 74, as amended.

FS: SOLAS 74, as amended:

initial survey, report and issuance of certificate;

renewal survey, report and issuance of certificate.

#### **CARGO SHIP SAFETY CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE**

##### **Initial certification, annual/intermediate, renewal surveys**

1 Module Nos. 1A, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2F, 3A and 4A apply.

2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues as appropriate for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: SOLAS 74 chapters II-1 and II-2 with amendments and appropriate classification rules.

FS: Pertinent technical surveys (class surveys or similar), new building:

hull structure and equipment;

machinery and systems installation and testing.

FS: Pertinent technical surveys (class surveys or similar), ships in operation:

annual/intermediate survey;

renewal survey;

bottom survey.

FS: SOLAS 74 chapters II-1 and II-2, as amended:

initial survey, report, issuance of certificate;

annual/intermediate survey and report;

renewal survey, report and issuance of certificate.

## **CARGO SHIP SAFETY EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATE**

### **Initial certification, annual, periodical, renewal surveys**

1 Module Nos. 1A, 2G, 3A and 4A apply.

2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues as appropriate for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: SOLAS 74 chapters II-1, II-2, III and V, as amended, and applicable aspects of COLREG 72, as amended.

FS: SOLAS 74 chapters II-1, II-2, III and V, as amended, and applicable aspects of COLREG 72, as amended:

initial survey, report and issuance of certificate;

annual/periodical survey and report;

renewal survey, report and issuance of certificate.

## **CARGO SHIP SAFETY RADIO CERTIFICATE**

### **Initial certification, periodical, renewal surveys**

1 Module Nos. 1A, 2J, 3A and 4B apply.

2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: SOLAS 74 chapter IV, as amended.

FS: Reference Module 4B.

## **INTERNATIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT CODE CERTIFICATION**

### **Initial certification, annual/intermediate verifications, renewal certification**

1 All of the modules, with the exception of 2E (tonnage), apply to the extent that they relate to an RO's ability to identify and evaluate the mandatory rules and regulations with which a company's safety management system and ships must comply.

2 For this certification the system should comply with the qualification and training requirements for ISM Code assessors contained in the Guidelines on Implementation of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code by Administrations.

## **INTERNATIONAL LOAD LINE CERTIFICATE**

### **Initial certification, annual, renewal surveys**

1 Module Nos. 1A, 2A, 2C, 2D, 3A and 4A apply.

2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues as appropriate for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: Calculation of freeboard and approval of drawings for conditions of assignment according to:

ILLC 1966.

FS: Pertinent technical surveys (class surveys or similar), new building:

hull structural survey;

hull penetrations and closing appliances;

stability/inclining test.

FS: Pertinent technical surveys (class surveys or similar), ships in operation:

annual survey;

renewal survey;

bottom survey.

FS: Measurement for load line/initial survey report.

FS: Conditions for assignment/initial survey report.

FS: Load line marking verification/initial survey report.

FS: Load line annual survey.

FS: Load line renewal survey, report and issuance of certificate.

### **INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION CERTIFICATE**

#### **Initial certification, annual, intermediate, renewal surveys**

1 Module Nos. 1A, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2H, 3A and 4A apply.

2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues as appropriate for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: Approval of drawings and manuals according to:

MARPOL 73/78 Annex I.

FS: MARPOL 73/78 Annex I, as amended:

initial survey, report and issuance of certificate;

annual/intermediate survey and report;

renewal survey, report and issuance of certificate.

### **INTERNATIONAL POLLUTION PREVENTION CERTIFICATE FOR THE CARRIAGE OF NOXIOUS LIQUID SUBSTANCES IN BULK**

#### **Initial certification, annual, intermediate, renewal surveys**

1 Module Nos. 1A, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2I, 3A and 4A apply.

2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues as appropriate for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: Approval of drawings and manuals according to:

MARPOL 73/78, Annex II and appropriate codes.

FS: MARPOL 73/78 Annex II and appropriate codes:



initial survey, report and issuance of certificate;

annual/intermediate survey and report;

renewal survey, report and issuance of certificate.

## **INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN BULK**

### **Initial certification, annual, intermediate, renewal surveys**

1 Module Nos. 1A, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2K, 3A and 4A apply.

2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues as appropriate for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: Approval of drawings and manuals according to:

International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code).

FS: IBC Code:

initial survey, report and issuance of certificate;

annual/intermediate survey and report;

renewal survey, report and issuance of certificate.

## **INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF LIQUIFIED GASES IN BULK**

### **Initial certification, annual, intermediate, renewal surveys**

1 Module Nos. 1A, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2L, 3A and 4A apply.

2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues as appropriate for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: Approval of drawings and manuals according to:

International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquified Gases in Bulk (IGC Code).

FS: IGC Code:

initial survey, report and issuance of certificate;

annual/intermediate survey and report;

renewal survey, report and issuance of certificate.



## **INTERNATIONAL TONNAGE CERTIFICATE (1969)**

### **Initial certification**

- 1 Module Nos. 1A, 2E and 4A apply.
- 2 For this certification the system should cover practical tutored training on the following issues as appropriate for Technical Appraisal and Support staff (TS) and Field Surveyors (FS) respectively:

TS: Measurement and computation of tonnage according to:

1969 Tonnage Measurement Convention;

pertinent IMO resolutions.

FS: Marking survey and report.

**MATRIX OF MODULES**

1: Management		2: Technical appraisal		3: Surveys		4: Qualifications and Training	
1A	Management functions	2A	Hull structure	3A	Survey functions	4A	General qualifications
		2B	Machinery systems			4B	Radio survey qualifications
		2C	Subdivision and stability				
		2D	Load line				
		2E	Tonnage				
		2F	Structural fire protection				
		2G	Safety equipment				
		2H	Oil pollution prevention				
		2I	NLS pollution prevention				
		2J	Radio				
		2K	Carriage of dangerous chemicals in bulk				
		2L	Carriage of liquified gases in bulk				

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