



**Title:** Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC), as revised.

**To:** Recognized Organizations, Recognized Security Organizations, General Safety Inspectors, ISM Operators, Ship Owners

**MMN Superseded:** N/A **Revision No.:** N/A

**Issuance Date:** 23 September 2024

## 1 REFERENCE

- *Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC)*, in its latest revision.
- Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (1988 SOLAS Protocol).
- Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (1988 Load Line Protocol)

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 On February 3, 2000, the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (1988 SOLAS Protocol) and the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (1988 Load Line Protocol) came into force for ships entitled to fly the flag of States Parties to these protocols. This introduced the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification to these vessels.
- 2.2 The Survey Guidelines under the HSSC are continuously updated to reflect amendments to the mandatory IMO instruments.

## 3 PURPOSE

- 3.1 The purpose of this notice is to inform all concerned parties that, as of 14 June 2007, the Government of Belize has ratified 1988 SOLAS and Load Line Protocols and has implemented the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification.

## 4 CONTENT

- 4.1 Belize, as a party to the 1988 SOLAS Protocol, the 1988 Load Line Protocol, and MARPOL 73/78, recognizes the need for a single and uniform system of survey. Consequently, all ships entitled to fly the Belize flag shall be certified in accordance with the provisions of the Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC).



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- 4.2 There shall be a one-year standard interval between surveys, based on initial, annual, intermediate, periodical, and renewal surveys, as appropriate, except for certificates based on initial and/or renewal surveys only.
- 4.3 The HSSC allows for necessary flexibility in executing each survey, providing for the completion of the renewal survey within three months before the expiry date of the existing certificate, without loss of its period of validity. A "time window" of six months – from three months before to three months after the anniversary date of the certificate - applies for annual, intermediate, and periodical surveys.
- 4.4 Items associated with the cargo ship safety construction intermediate survey that are additional to the requirements of the annual survey may alternatively be conducted during the second or third annual survey or between these surveys.
- 4.5 For item 4.4 above, there is a flexible system for inspecting the outside of the ship's bottom under the following conditions:
  - 4.5.1 A minimum of two inspections during any five-year validity period of the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate or the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate, with the interval between any two inspections not exceeding 36 months. Further details can be found in [MMN-18-001](#) (in its latest revision) concerning Outside Ship's Bottom Inspection Requirements for Belize Registered Vessels.
- 4.6 There shall be a maximum validity period of five years for all cargo ship certificates and a maximum validity period of 12 months for the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate.

## 5 EXTENSION

- 5.1 Any extension from the provisions of this notice shall be in accordance with the requirements of [MMN-24-003](#) (in its latest revision) concerning Guidance for Issuance of Short-term Certificates and/or Extended Certificates by Recognized Organizations.
- 5.2 When an extension is granted, the period of validity of the new certificate will commence from the expiry date of the existing certificate prior to its extension.

## 6 ACTIONS REQUESTED

- 6.1 The Administration hereby advises all Recognized Organizations and Recognized Security Organizations to review and comply with the contents of this Notice and to ensure that its provisions are enforced on vessels registered with IMMARBE.



**7 FAILURE TO COMPLY**

- 7.1 Failure to adhere to the requirements outlined in this Notice may result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by IMMARBE. This may include, but is not limited to:
  - a. Suspension or revocation of the vessel’s certification.
  - b. Imposition of fines or penalties.
  - c. Restrictions on the vessel’s operations or trading activities.
  - d. Other legal actions as specified under the Belize Merchant Ships (Registration) Act (in its latest revision) and Statutory Instrument 56 of 1999 (as revised).
  - e. Actions outlined in the RO agreement concerning “Breach of Agreement.”

It is imperative that all parties adhere fully to the procedures and requirements to ensure proper certification and avoid any regulatory issues.

IMMARBE appreciates your cooperation and assistance.

This notice was issued in Belize City, Belize on 23 September 2024.

**Eduardo  
Signature**

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+02'00'



**Date:**

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-06'00'

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Any queries related to this Notice shall be directed to [technicalservices@immarbe.com](mailto:technicalservices@immarbe.com)