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Shipping Guidance Notice 143

Coding of Small Gibraltar Registered commercially operating yachts

((Cancels SGN 054(a))

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, Classification Societies and Recognised Organisations

References:

- *MGN 280(M) as amended – Code of Practice for Small Vessel in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure, Workboats and Pilot Boats (as amended).*

1. Summary

This Shipping Guidance Notice (SGN) sets out the Gibraltar Maritime Administration's survey and certification requirements for small Gibraltar Registered commercially operating yachts under 24 metres in length (power driven and/or sail).

2. Definitions:

i. "Small yachts" refers to vessels of under 24 metres length.

ii. "Commercial" means the use of the vessel for purposes other than sport or pleasure.

iii. "SCV Code" means MGN 280(M) as amended – Code of Practice for Small Vessel in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure, Workboats and Pilot Boats (as amended).

iv. "Coding" means compliance under the SCV Code.

3. Standards for small Gibraltar registered yachts engaged in commercial activity

All Gibraltar registered small yachts (power driven and/or sail) under 24 metres in length, engaged in commercial activities on any basis, are required to be commercially registered with the Gibraltar Yacht Registry, and be able to demonstrate via applicable certification, compliance with applicable international maritime conventions, or a Gibraltar Maritime Administration accepted alternative standard, appropriate to the size of vessel, area of operation, and activities of the vessel.

The Gibraltar Maritime Administration (GMA) recognizes the following as the acceptable standard for Gibraltar registered small yachts engaged in commercial activities, carrying not more than 12 passengers:

MGN 280(M) as amended – Code of Practice for Small Vessel in Commercial Use for Sport or Pleasure, Workboats and Pilot Boats (as amended).

***Note:** Above standards are subject to any additional requirements deemed necessary or appropriate by the Maritime Administrator as contained with applicable notices published via https://www.gibraltarship.com/notices.*

4. Survey & Certification

Survey and certification requirements in respect of SCV coding are primarily the Administration's responsibility. However, in practice, Recognised Organisations and Certifying Authorities duly authorised by the GMA* may undertake SCV Code survey and certification requirements on behalf of the Administration.

Owners/operators of small yachts wishing to operate on a commercial basis, should contact a Gibraltar Recognised Organisation or Certifying Authority in order to undertake the required SCV coding of the vessel.

As well as being an active Certifying Authority itself, the GMA, retains the responsibility for enforcing the SCV Code and for auditing Recognised Organisations and Certifying Authorities.

**Recognised Organisations and Certifying Authorities duly authorised by the GMA:*

GMA authorized Recognised Organisations:

- American Bureau of Shipping (ABS)
- Bureau Veritas (BV)
- Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
- Lloyd's Register (LR)
- Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (ClassNK)
- Registro Italiano Navale (RINA)

GMA authorized Certifying Authorities:

- The International Institute of Marine Surveying (IIMS)
- MECAL Ltd
- Society of Consulting Marine Engineers and Ship Surveyors (SCMS)
- The Yacht Designers & Surveyors Association (YDSA)

Note: It is important for owners/operators to note, that in respect of the SCV Code, annual examination by owners/operators of small yachts engaged in commercial activities is not acceptable to the GMA. The annual verification inspections must be conducted by an authorised Recognised Organisation, Certifying Authority, or GMA surveyor.

The GMA may as part of its quality measures require periodical shipboard attendances, where a Flag State Inspection (general inspection) will be undertaken by a GMA surveyor. Flag State inspections of the vessel may only be undertaken by a GMA surveyor.

Similarly, GMA attendances may be required following accidents or serious safety related occurrences.

5. Registration

Owners/operators of small yachts must inform the Gibraltar Yacht Registry of the intention to operate commercially upon initial application for registration with the Gibraltar Yacht Registry.

Similarly, owners/operators of existing Gibraltar registered small yachts which are registered as pleasure yachts, intending to undertake commercial operations must obtain the necessary coding and contact the Gibraltar Yacht Registry for the required change of registration particulars prior to commencement of any commercial activities.

Steve Gomez – Chief Surveyor (Ag)
For & on behalf of the Maritime Administrator

Issue date: 19 August 2024

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