



Office of  
Deputy Commissioner  
of Maritime Affairs

**THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

**Marine Notice**

**TEC-010**  
**Rev. 06/12**

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**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF  
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND AUTHORIZED CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES**

**SUBJECT: Bridge Navigation Watch Alarm System (BNWAS)**

**Reference: (a) SOLAS'74 as amended, Ch. V, Regulation 19.2.2**  
**(b) Resolution MSC.282(86) adopted on 05 June 2009**  
**(c) Resolution MSC.128(75) adopted on 20 May 2002**

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Notice is to inform vessel owners, operators and managers of the Liberian Administration's policy concerning the requirements for Bridge Navigation Watch Alarm Systems (BNWAS).

**APPLICABILITY:**

This Notice is applicable to all self-propelled Liberian flagged cargo ships of 150 gross tons and greater and all self-propelled Liberian flagged passenger ships irrespective of size.

**1.0 General**

In June 2009, SOLAS'74 was amended by Resolution MSC.282(86) (reference (b) above) to include new paragraphs .3 and .4 to the existing Chapter V Regulation 19.2.2, which entered into force on 01 January 2011.

The new Regulation 19.2.2.3 requires a bridge navigational watch alarm system (BNWAS) for all cargo ships 150 gross tons or greater and all passenger ships irrespective of size. The BNWAS is required by the regulation to be in be in operation whenever the ship is underway at sea. The BNWAS is to be fitted as follows:

- .1 cargo ships of 150 gross tonnage and upwards and passenger ships irrespective of size constructed on or after 1 July 2011;
- .2 passenger ships irrespective of size constructed before 1 July 2011, not later than the first survey after 1 July 2012;
- .3 cargo ships of 3,000 gross tonnage and upwards constructed before 1 July 2011, not later than the first survey\* after 1 July 2012;

- .4 cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage and upwards but less than 3,000 gross tonnage constructed before 1 July 2011, not later than the first survey after 1 July 2013; and
- .5 cargo ships of 150 gross tonnage and upwards but less than 500 gross tonnage constructed before 1 July 2011, not later than the first survey after 1 July 2014.

\* As provided in MSC.1/Circ.1290, Unified Interpretation of the term “first survey” referred to SOLAS Regulations, unless indicated otherwise, when the term “first survey” is referenced by a regulation in the 1974 SOLAS Convention, as amended, it means the first annual survey, the first periodical survey or the first renewal survey, whichever is due first, after the date specified in the relevant regulation. It may also be any other survey, if the Administrator deems it to be reasonable and practicable, taking into account the extent of repairs and alterations being undertaken.

For a ship under construction where the keel is laid before, but the ship is delivered after, the date specified in the relevant regulation, the initial survey is the “first survey.”

## **2.0 BNWAS installed on or after 1 July 2011**

A BNWAS installed on or after 1 July 2011 must be Type approved to meet the full requirements of MSC.128(75).

## **3.0 Acceptance of BNWAS installed prior to 1 July 2012:**

The new Regulation 19.2.2.4 provides for a BNWAS installed prior to 1 July 2011 to be exempted from full compliance with the BNWAS performance standards adopted in Resolution MSC.128(75) (reference (c) above), at the discretion of the Administration. The Liberian Administration will accept BNWAS installed prior to 1 July 2011 that do not fully meet the standards specified in Resolution MSC.128(75) subject to the procedures contained in Section 3.1 of this Marine Notice.

- 3.1 In order to have a BNWAS installed prior to 1 July 2012 evaluated by the Administration to determine if the system is acceptable, shipowners should complete and submit to the Administration at [technical@liscr.com](mailto:technical@liscr.com) the checklist (attached as Annex) for BNWAS installed on a ship or a class of ships.
- 3.2 On receipt of the checklist, the Administration will determine the degree of compliance with the requirements of MSC128(75). If necessary the Administration may grant exemptions from certain requirements of Resolution 128(75) provided these exemptions do not in any way jeopardize the safety of the ship.
- 3.3 If the Administration determines that the BNWAS is acceptable, the Administration will provide an letter to the owner with a copy to the RO who issued the ship’s Safety Equipment Certificate, authorizing after survey of the installation and verification of the operation of the BNWAS for compliance with Resolution MSC.128(75)., the issuance of an Interim BNWAS Exemption Certificate.

3.4 Upon receipt of the ROs verification of the system the Administration will issue the full term exemption certificate, if applicable, and a letter of acceptance of the ships BNWAS. A copy of the letter of acceptance should be kept on board the vessel.

#### **4.0 Self-Propelled MODUs**

The Administrator will, on a case-by-case basis, consider requests for self-propelled MODUs to be exempted from the requirements of SOLAS Chapter V, Regulation 19.2.2.3 and 19.2.2.4 regarding installation of a BNWAS.

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