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## **BERMUDA MERCHANT SHIPPING GUIDANCE NOTICE**

### **COVID-19 – Extension of Periodical Life Saving Appliance and Fixed Fire Extinguishing Servicing**

**This Notice is intended for:** Ship Owners, Managers, Captains and Officers

**References:**

**Bermuda Shipping Notice 2018-021** ‘Maintenance and Inspection of Fire Protection Systems, Appliances and Certain Emergency Equipment’

**Bermuda Shipping Notice 2018-027** ‘Maintenance and Inspection of Fixed Carbon Dioxide Fire Extinguishing Systems’

**Bermuda Shipping Notice 2020-016** ‘Servicing and Testing of Life-Saving Appliances, their Release and Retrieval Systems including On-Load Release Hooks, Guidance on Free-Fall Lifeboats and Fall Preventer Devices’

**Summary:**

This notice is to inform Owners, Managers and crew of Bermuda registered ships that the Bermuda Shipping and Maritime Authority (BSMA) is aware that ship managers may experience difficulty in securing service supplier attendance on board before the servicing due date due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

This notice provides guidance on the steps to be taken should ship managers find themselves in this situation.

This Notice was issued on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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#### **1. Introduction**

- (1) BSMA have existing instruction for ship managers in the form of Bermuda Shipping Notices which provide detailed guidance on the periodical maintenance requirements for fire-fighting systems and appliances, fixed CO<sub>2</sub> fire-fighting systems and life-saving appliances and equipment.
- (2) These shipping notices allow a servicing window of +/- 3 months from the due date of the service, in which it may be completed.

**Note:** If the due date on an annual servicing task is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 it may be completed any time up to the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 without any notification requirements to BSMA.

**Note:** For equipment servicing so extended, the servicing date for future work will remain at the original date. Using the example above, the next annual service would remain due at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

- (3) The relevant clauses can be found as follows:

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- a. Bermuda Shipping Notice 2020-021 'Maintenance and Inspection of Fire Protection Systems, Appliances and Certain Emergency Equipment', paragraph 2, page 2.
- b. Bermuda Shipping Notice 2018-027 'Maintenance and Inspection of Fixed Carbon Dioxide Fire Extinguishing Systems', paragraph 10, page 3.
- c. Bermuda Shipping Notice 2020-016 'Servicing and Testing of Life-Saving Appliances, their Release and Retrieval Systems including On-Load Release Hooks, Guidance on Free-Fall Lifeboats and Fall Preventer Devices', paragraph 2.4, page 3.

## 2. Servicing and Testing Tasks

- (1) The servicing and testing tasks that may be conducted within a +/- 3 month window are defined in the above Bermuda Shipping Notices as follows:
  - a. Annual inspections
  - b. Intermediate inspections (2 or 2.5 yearly)
  - c. 5 yearly inspections
  - d. 10 yearly inspections

## 3. Items Not Covered by This Notice

- (1) Inflatable lifejacket, MES and liferaft servicing.
  - a. SOLAS/III.20.8.1.1 allows Administrations to provide 5 month exemptions which will be issued if required. Please contact [survey@bermudashipping.bm](mailto:survey@bermudashipping.bm) directly.
- (2) Annual inspection of portable fire extinguishers.
  - a. This task may be performed by a 'competent person', defined in BSN 2018-028 as:

*A member of the ship's crew who has been trained for the work by and who carries out the work on board under the supervision of an experienced person holding a Merchant Shipping STCW II/2 or III/2 Certificate of Competency and an Advanced Fire Fighting certificate, and in accordance with the ship's planned maintenance system, including documented procedures, work instructions and manuals, and using tools, spares and calibrated equipment readily available on board.*
- (3) 10 Yearly hydrostatic testing of portable fire extinguishers or other pressure vessels
  - a. Such extensions will be considered on a case by case basis. Please contact this Administration at [survey@bermudashipping.bm](mailto:survey@bermudashipping.bm) directly.

**Chief Surveyor**  
**Bermuda Shipping and Maritime Authority**

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