



Virgin Islands Shipping Registry

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GUIDELINES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CREW BOATS

TO: SHIPOWNERS, SHIPS' OPERATORS AND MANAGERS, MASTERS

APPLICABLE TO: CREW BOATS

EFFECTIVE AS FROM: Newly registered crew boats: date of registration

General

Crew Boats are used to transport industrial workers, stores, materials or equipment from nearby shore base facilities and the offshore oil and offshore gas installations, and vice versa. The extra persons transported are not typical passengers but primarily industrial personnel, trained for the marine environment and experienced in emergency and evacuation procedures. At present there are no resolutions of the International Maritime Organization specifically intended to crew boats.

In view of the above, this Administration establishes an equivalent standard to the SOLAS passenger ship requirements for crew boats.

The present guidelines are issued to identify the technical requirements and certification procedure applicable to Virgin Islands Crew Boats of less than 500 Gross Tonnage.

Applicability

These guidelines apply to crew boats of less than 500 GT newly registered.

Exemptions

This Administration may exempt individual Crew Boats from these requirements if it considers that the nature and condition of the voyage can make the application of specific requirements of these guidelines unreasonable or unnecessary.

Definitions

Crew Boats: all vessels mainly devoted to the transport of industrial personnel between offshore installations and ports.

Industrial workers: any person on board a vessel who is normally employed in offshore industrial operations and who is not a passenger, a crew member, a person employed or engaged in any capacity on board a vessel on the business of that vessel or specific personnel.

Survey and Certification:

Class Certificate

Crew Boats are required to be classed as "CREW BOAT" by a Classification Society recognized by this Administration

Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate

Crew Boats, which, in the course of their voyages, do not proceed more than 200 nautical miles from the nearest land, are required to be in compliance with IACS No 99 (Recommendation for the Safety of Cargo Vessels of less than Convention Size (Dec.2007)).

A Recognized Organization to this Administration, should carry out surveys of vessel in accordance with IACS 99 during construction and, at regular intervals after completion, generally as prescribed within Chapter I of SOLAS 1974 (as amended), and to issue a Cargo Ship Safety Certificate on behalf of this Administration.

A Limitation Clause should be inserted in the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate for the crew boats transporting more than twelve (12) industrial workers:

"Transport of authorized personnel and crew/workers only for Marine Offshore Units on a limited distance from shore up to maximum 200 NM."

A limited distance from shore of 200 NM in the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate may be reduced in order to correspond to the navigation restriction indicated on a Certificate of Class.

Compliance with the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships

The Crew Boats, which, in the course of their voyages, proceed more than 200 nautical miles from the nearest land, **OR** transporting more than sixty (60) persons (including crew) are required to be in compliance with the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships – Resolution A.534 (13) (as amended by MSC/Circ.446, 478 and 739) or MSC.266(84) as applicable.

Load Lines

Crew boats should comply with the requirements of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended, with the sole exception of the requirements for marking and freeboard computation, unless alternative arrangements are approved by this Administration.

Crew boats of 24 meters or more in length and existing vessels of 150 gross tonnage and above, engaged on any international voyage, in addition to the Cargo Ship Safety Certificate shall carry an International Load Line Certificate.

Radio Equipment

Crew boats over 300 gross tonnage should carry a Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate (SOLAS, Chapter I, Regulation 9).

Stability and Subdivision

Crew Boats operating 60 NM from shore should comply with IACS 99, Chapter III.

Crew Boats operating between 60 NM and 200 NM from a shore **OR** carrying more than sixty (60) persons onboard (including the crew) should comply with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships – Resolution A.534 (13) (as amended by MSC/Circ.446, 478 and 739) or MSC.266(84) as applicable.

MARPOL

All crew boats from 400 GT and over are subject to MARPOL Convention. Owners and Masters are hereby reminded that crew boat engaged on international voyages which carry more than fifteen (15) persons are subject to the International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate.

Accommodations

A seat should be provided for each personnel being transported and each crew for which the crew boat is certified to carry. Such seats should be arranged in enclosed spaces

Minimum Safe Manning Document

A Minimum Safe Manning Document will be required for crew boats indicating the required manning, particular service area and distance from shore.

ISM and ISPS Codes

Crew Boats up to 500GT are not subject to ISM Certification. However, Owners should develop, implement and maintain the procedures and checklists (where appropriate) at least for the following:

- Safety instructions to personnel being transferred;
- Responsibilities and authorities of all on board;
- Procedures for communication;
- Procedures for responding to emergency situations.

The implementation of the ISPS Code is recommended.

Transport and Transfer of Personnel with Crew Boats

All transport and transfer of persons in addition to the crew must be conducted in accordance with the following:

- Transport voyages are subject to favourable sea conditions (except under emergency conditions) at the appreciation of the Master of the crew boat;
- Personnel to be transported should receive safety briefing
- Watertight doors in subdivision bulkheads should be kept closed at all times when the Crew Boat is at sea; and
- Personnel transport and transfer operations must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of IMO A.863(20) as amended by MSC.237(82).