

CLASSIFICATION NEWS

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STATUTORY ALERT

Amendments to SOLAS Chapter V, regulation 19 – bridge navigational watch alarm systems (BNWAS)

APPLICABILITY

Shipbuilders, owners and managers

INFORMATION

Requirements for bridge navigational watch alarm systems (BNWAS) were adopted at the 86th session of the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee.

BNWAS will become mandatory for certain new ships on delivery.

Existing ships will be required to retrofit the equipment "at the first survey", in accordance with the application schedule below, based on ship type, size and keel laying date.

Although the "first survey" may not coincide with dry docking, owners should be aware that substantial work could be involved in retrofitting this equipment, which could take the ship out of service. Consideration should therefore be given to carrying out the necessary modifications in dry dock, before the mandatory implementation date. The agreement of the ship's flag administration would be required to postpone retrofitting beyond this date.

This early notification of the new requirement is intended to enable shipowners and managers to plan accordingly.

Application (to ships engaged on international voyages only)

Ship type	Size	New ships (construction – keel laying date)	Existing ships (not new ships)
Passenger ships	ALL	July 1, 2011	Not later than the first survey* on or after July 1, 2012
Others	3,000 gt and above	July 1, 2011	Not later than the first survey* on or after July 1, 2012
	500 gt and above but less than 3,000 gt	July 1, 2011	Not later than the first survey* on or after July 1, 2013
	150 gt and above but less than 500 gt	July 1, 2011	Not later than the first survey* on or after July 1, 2014

* The first survey means the first annual survey, the first periodical survey or the first renewal survey, whichever is due first after the date specified. For a passenger ship, this is the first renewal survey for "Passenger ship safety survey"; for a cargo ship (non-passenger ship), this is either the "Cargo ship safety equipment survey" or the "Cargo ship safety survey" (combined survey – if the ship chooses to combine all SOLAS certificates in one). For both passenger ships and cargo ships which are under construction, if 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".

Further information

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