



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

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To Owners/Skippers of Fishing Vessels

Vessels surveyed by Aberdeen, Belfast and Glasgow  
MCA Marine Offices

Your ref:  
Our ref:

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## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES** **Concentrated Survey/Inspection Campaign**

It is planned to conduct a concentrated survey and inspection campaign in 2013 to highlight the mandatory requirement for emergency drills on fishing vessels.

Emergency drills and training have the objective of preparing a trained and organized response to situations of great difficulty which may unexpectedly threaten loss of life at sea. It is important that they should be carried out realistically, approaching as closely as possible to emergency conditions. This ensures that each crew member knows exactly what to do in case of fire or other disaster.

All fishing vessel over 15 metres length overall are required to carry out drills once a month and to keep a record.

Following recent MAIB investigations, comment is made that drills are not being done as required and the consequences of some incidents could have been mitigated had the crew more familiarity with safety equipment provided on board.

At Survey - initial, intermediate and renewal survey and other inspections – the Owner/Skipper will be reminded of their obligations and expected to present evidence that:-

- the crew are trained in the use of all lifesaving and fire appliances and equipment with which the vessel is provided and should ensure that all members of the crew know where the equipment is stowed. Such training should be carried out in drills, held in port or at sea, at intervals of not more than one month.

A Certificate will not be issued or endorsed unless the Owner/Skipper can demonstrate this compliance by

- the keeping of the Official Log Book and
- the GMDSS radio log book and
- signing of the Declaration issued with the 15 to 24 metre Certificate.

During surveys drills are to be carried so that the competency of the crew can be assessed. If considered not satisfactory, a return visit will be made and an additional fee charged.



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The main purpose of witnessing drills is threefold:

- 1 to verify the crew can organize in an event following an emergency,
- 2 Crew can communicate, receive and carry out instruction efficiently and
- 3 To ensure the skipper is in control of the emergency and the information flow is from one central command.

An emergency drill shall as far as practicable be conducted as if it were an actual emergency.

A fire drill or other emergency drill should be held simultaneously with the first stage of the abandon ship drill. For the purpose of the fire drill an outbreak of fire should be assumed to have occurred in some part of the ship and fire control measures simulated as appropriate.

A man overboard drill is to include deployment and rigging of equipment used to recovery the person on board.

Note:

1 Every vessel shall keep a record (referred to as "the GMDSS Radio Log"), refer to MGN 395(M+F).Check for

- Correct entry of ship details and operator's names.
- Recording of daily, weekly and monthly tests with station details. (The daily, weekly and monthly tests are detailed in the front of the log book.)

2 The requirement that an official log book shall be kept in every ship registered in the United Kingdom shall not apply to a fishing vessel of a length less than 16.76 metres (55 feet); refer to MSN 1303. Particular checks to be made on recording

2.1 A record of each occasion on which, a muster, drill, training of the crew in the use of Lifesaving and fire appliances and equipment, is held on board the vessel or on which the appliances and equipment required by those Rules to be carried are examined to see whether they are fit and ready for use.

2.2 Where a muster, drill and training or inspection is not held on board the fishing vessel when required a record of why the muster, drill, training or inspection, as the case may be, was not carried out.

2.3 Both entries to be signed by the Skipper and witnessed by a crew member.

2.4 Such Inspections of the life-saving equipment and fire appliances plus training should be carried out in drills, held in port or at sea, at intervals of not more than one month.

2.5 Vessels less than 16.76 metres (55 feet) registered length are not required to keep an official log book so the records of drill maybe maintained in a diary etc.

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