

Appendix A - The Merchant Shipping (Marine Equipment) Regulations 1999

The Merchant Shipping (Marine Equipment) Regulations (S.I. 1999 No. 1957) as amended and associated MSN's (MSN 1734 (M+F) Type Approval of Marine Equipment (EC Notified Bodies) and MSN 1735 (M+F) Type Approval of Marine Equipment (UK Nominated Bodies)) and EU Directive on Marine Equipment (96/98/EC) in its most up to date form (the M.E.D.)

The Merchant Shipping (Marine Equipment) Regulations shall apply to a high-speed craft operating on a scheduled service from any port in the United Kingdom to any port in another member State, or vice versa; or a voyage which is not an international voyage, to which The Merchant Shipping (High Speed Craft) Regulations 2004 apply (e.g. those on seagoing domestic voyages and those on voyages in categorized waters).

The Marine Equipment Directive (MED) 96/98/EC of 20 December 1996, in its most up to date form (currently 98/95/EC, 2001/53/EC, 2002/75/EC, 2002/84/EC and 2008/67/EC) covers equipment carried and used on ships registered under the flags of European Union member states.

The Directive applies from 1 January 1999 and aims to ensure that equipment meets the requirements of international conventions such as SOLAS, MARPOL, Loadline and Collision Regulations and achieves a common standard of safety and performance. It also ensures that certificates issued by European Union member states are acceptable to each member state through the harmonisation of their approval requirements. Annex A.1 of the Marine Equipment Directive lists products with international testing standards and Annex A.2 lists those products without an agreed international standard.

The Merchant Shipping (Delegation of Type Approval) Regulations 1996, S.I. 1996 No. 147, provide for Nominated Bodies to undertake `type approval` of marine equipment, of a safety or pollution prevention nature, for use on United Kingdom ships. This legislation was supplemented by the Merchant Shipping (Marine Equipment) Regulations 1999 S.I. 1999 No. 1957, which implemented Directive 96/98/EC, later amended by S.I. 2001 No. 1638, S.I. 2004 No. 302 and S.I. 2004 No. 1266..

In response to changes in the development of testing standards, the Commission has issued updating Directives to 96/98/EC which updates the list of equipment for which no agreed international testing standard exists in Annex A.2 and also Annex A.1. Further details can be found in Merchant Shipping Notice 1734 `Type-Approval of Marine Equipment (EC Notified Bodies)` and Merchant Shipping Notice 1735 `Type-Approval of Marine Equipment (UK Nominated Bodies).