



# Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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## **Shipping Information Notice – 079** **(COVID-19) - GMA approach to a phased return to survey and certification activity** ***(To be read in conjunction with SIN 069 & 078)***

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To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, Certifying Authorities, and Recognised Organisations

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### References:

- Shipping Information Notice – 069
- Shipping Information Notice – 078

### Summary

This SIN sets out the Gibraltar approach to survey and certification as the restrictions on the maritime industry necessary due to the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) are steadily eased. It allows a phased return to the statutory framework of surveys, inspections and audits on board Gibraltar vessels using a risk-based process, recognizing that in some cases it may not be feasible to immediately return to survey and inspection activity.

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Administration put in place a pragmatic framework for the certification of Gibraltar registered vessels to enable their continued operation, set out in SIN 069.
- 1.2 As the national and international restrictions put in place as a result of the pandemic ease there is a clear need to set out a framework for the resumption of survey, inspection and audit of Gibraltar registered vessels, developed with due regard to the resources available and the risks associated with the ongoing operation of un-surveyed vessels.
- 1.3 In all cases, vessels are expected to comply with the prevailing requirements/guidelines in respect of the measures required to be in place for the protection of persons from COVID- 19.

#### **2. Internationally trading ships operating under the main IMO Conventions**

- 2.1 Internationally trading vessels operating under the main Conventions are generally surveyed by Recognised Organisations (RO's) acting under the authority of the Administration. The certification of these vessels carried out in accordance with the provisions of SIN 069 & 078 as amended will continue to be recognized up to the expiration of any short-term certificate issued.

2.2 Guidance to operators and RO's on the use of alternative measures for the assurance of the condition of vessels against the relevant statutory and Class standards on Gibraltar registered ships where the completion of traditional surveys may not be possible is provided in SIN 078.

**3. Vessels operating under the MCA Small Commercial Vessel (SCV) codes of practice/Workboat Code.**

3.1 For a vessel certificated under the SCV Code of Practice/Workboat Code, it is envisaged that a Certifying Authority (CA) will be able to appoint a surveyor to complete the required surveys prior to the expiration of any short-term certificate issued under SIN 069 and/or SIN 078.

3.2 SIN's 069 & 078 permits limited extensions to the validity of short-term certificates issued through necessity during the period affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and these may continue to be used whilst the SIN's remains in force but only in respect of restrictions directly resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

3.3 Where a vessel is operating outside Gibraltar under a Code certificate, every effort should be made to complete the required surveys. Where the CA is considering using alternative measures to verify that the condition of the vessel complies with the intent of the relevant Code these will be considered by application to the Administration by the Certifying Authority supported by a description of why the survey/inspection cannot be completed as required and details of the alternative measures proposed. An overview of the policy on the use of alternative measures and the application process is provided in SIN 078. Application should be made by the CA to [maritime.survey@gibraltar.gov.gi](mailto:maritime.survey@gibraltar.gov.gi)

3.4 The use of Gibraltar certificates overseas is dependent on the acceptance of the local authorities for their use. Noting that the use of alternative measures or short-term extensions to certificates fall outside the requirements of the relevant Code, nothing in this SIN prevents a Port State Authority from acting as they consider appropriate however, should issues arise the CA and Administration should be informed without delay.

3.5 The use of alternative measures for vessels operating in Gibraltar will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

3.6 The primary concern of the Certifying Authority when considering the duration of any extension or any proposed alternative measure must be the safety of the crew and the protection of the environment.

**4. Commercial Yachts operating under the Large Yacht / REG Yacht codes.**

4.1 Applications for survey or extensions to certification of Commercial Yachts certified under the Large Yacht Code or REG Yacht Code should continue to be submitted to the Administration.

## **5. Non-mandatory inspections**

5.1 Non-Mandatory inspections will be conducted at the discretion on the Administration.

## **6. Ad-hoc mandatory surveys**

6.1 Ad-hoc mandatory surveys such as those for load-line exemptions for tows, repositioning voyages, etc, will be conducted at the discretion on the Administration as resource availability dictates. Operators are advised to contact the Administration in respect of such surveys.

Steve Gomez – Chief Surveyor (Ag)  
*For & on behalf of the Maritime Administrator*

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All notices are available through [www.gibraltarship.com](http://www.gibraltarship.com)

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