



# IMMARBE INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE

Merchant Marine Notice No. IMM/GOB Note -MMN-18-001

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To: DEPUTY REGISTRARS, SHIP OWNERS/ISM OPERATORS/RECOGNIZED  
ORGANIZATIONS/SHIPPING AGENTS/GENERAL SAFETY INSPECTORS

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Reference: Outside Ship's Bottom Inspection Requirements for Belize Registered Vessels

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Issuance Date: 1/15/2018

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## 1. PURPOSE

This Merchant Marine Notice intends to serve as a guideline to shipowners and operators about all requirements of the inspection of the outside ship's bottom set out by IMMARBE for Belize Registered Vessels in accordance with all mandatory instruments and our national legislation.

## 2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Through this notice, IMMARBE would inform all concerned parties about the outside ship's bottom inspection periods in accordance with all international conventions ratified by Belize and our national legislation. These periods are as follows:

**1. Cargo Vessels of 500 Gross Tonnage and above** in accordance with Chapter I, Regulation I/10(a)(v) of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended (SOLAS Convention) are required to have a minimum of two inspections of the outside ship's bottom during the 5-year period of validity of the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate. In all cases the interval between any two such inspections shall not exceed 36 months.

**2. Cargo Vessels of less than 500 Gross Tonnage** in accordance with item 7 of our Statutory Instrument 147 of 1991 as amended by our Statutory Instrument 82 of 1997 are required be put in dry-dock or on slipway to undergo a thorough examination of all underwater and overside parts. The interval between these examinations shall not exceed two years.

All vessels over 16 years old, unless exempted by IMMARBE, shall also undergo this examination annually.

Notwithstanding the above mentioned, this Administration, through the Technical Department could authorize the application of SOLAS requirements for the inspection of the outside ship's bottom **“minimum two inspections of the outside ship's bottom during a 5-year period. In all cases the interval between any two such inspections shall not exceed 36 months”**. If this period is authorized; then, the Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate will have a validity of 5 years in order to harmonize this certificate with the dry-docking period.

**3. Passenger ships** in accordance with the SOLAS Convention shall be subject to two inspections of the outside ship's bottom with the ship in a dry dock during a 5-year period. In all cases the interval between any two such inspections in dry dock shall not exceed 36 months. All

others bottom surveys can be carried out as underwater surveys.

**4. Fishing Vessels** in accordance with item 10.1 of our Statutory Instrument 113 of 1991 are required to be put in dry-dock or on a slipway at least every two and a half years and undergo a thorough examination of all underwater and overside parts.

**5. Cargo Vessels Operating in the Caribbean** in accordance with Part B, Item 1.10.1.5 of our Statutory Instrument 119 of 1997 are required a minimum of two inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom during any 5-year period, except where 1.13.5 or 1.13.6 is applicable. Where 1.13.5 or 1.13.6 is applicable, this 5-year period may be extended to coincide with the extended period of validity of the certificate, in all cases the interval between any two such inspections should not exceed 36 months;

### **3. SPONTANEOUS DRY-DOCKING SURVEY**

When a vessel suffers a damage, or is in need of any repair in dry-dock due to emergency or due to circumstances of misfortune; this dry-dock should not be considered as mandatory dry-docking survey; unless, all mandatory surveys according to International Conventions are performed under the supervision of the Recognized Organization on behalf of this Administration. The Recognized Organization prior this survey is accepted to be accounted as mandatory dry-docking survey shall pursue an agreement with IMMARBE's Technical Department.

The Recognized Organization surveyors shall be appointed to attend and supervise the spontaneous dry-docking survey and submit a narrative report along with the Dry Dock Survey Report or Underwater Survey Report with the result of the inspected areas, repairs and pending items (if any). This request might be in accordance with item 3.6 of our Merchant Marine Notice 17-002 "Reporting of Casualty and Incident".

### **4. SPECIAL CONTEMPLATIONS**

Inspections of the outside of the ship's bottom should normally be carried out with the ship in a dry dock. However, consideration may be given to alternate inspections being carried out with the ship afloat.

Inspection of the outside of the ship's bottom of vessels of **15 years of age and over** shall be carried out with the ship in dry dock.

For ships **less than 15 years of age**, alternate inspections of the ship's bottom not conducted in conjunction with the renewal survey may be carried out with the ship afloat. The Recognized Organization that would like to proceed with this contemplation shall pursue an authorization of IMMARBE's Technical Department

The required inspections of the ship's bottom for the renewal surveys of the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate can be carried out with the ship afloat except for the ones required in above item 2.3.

Inspections with the ship afloat should only be carried out when the conditions are satisfactory and the proper equipment and suitably trained staffs are available.

### **5. DRY-DOCKING EXTENSIONS**

This Administration may only consider the extension of dry-dock when the vessel falls under the

parameters of SOLAS Ch. I Regulation 14(e) or 14(f) or if there is not any available shipyard. In any of these cases, the maximum non-extendible period allowed is three months.

In order to obtain a dry-docking extension, a request for a **Statement of Extension** shall be made to IMMARBE's Technical Department through the vessel's Deputy Registrar office.

For extension under SOLAS Ch. I Reg. 14(e) or 14(f), the request shall be supported with the following:

- Current location of the vessel.
- Next port of call and ETA.
- Written acceptance letter from the Recognized Organization.

For extensions due to non-availability of Shipyards, the request shall be supported with the following:

- Three Letters from different Shipyards confirming the non-availability of a space.
- Booking confirmation letter.
- Underwater Survey Report.
- Written acceptance letter from the Recognized Organization.

## 6. ACTIONS REQUESTED

This Administration would like to encourage all shipowners and operators to take note of the contents of this Notice and to bring it to the attention of masters, crewmembers and other personnel to ensure its provisions are enforced on board vessels registered at IMMARBE.

Look forward for your cooperation and assistance.

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The Merchant Marine Notice was issued in Belize city, Belize o 1/15/2018



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Technical Manager  
IMMARBE



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