



Inspectie Verkeer en Waterstaat

Zie afschriftgegevens

Date
23 November 2007
Contact
R. Lakeman
Telephone
-
Enclosure(s)
-
Subject
spare magnetic compass

Your reference
-
Our reference
IVW/07JU000850

Dear Sir,

With this letter I would like to clarify the position of the Netherlands Shipping Inspectorate on the issue of the spare magnetic compass (SMC).

According to SOLAS V/19.2.2.1, all ships of 150 GT and upwards shall be fitted with an SMC. This requirement is in force as from 1 July 2002.

According to NSI, this requirement was at that time an unnecessary reinforcement compared to the requirements in force prior to 1 July 2007, when also a steering or gyro compass was allowed as such. Therefore initially, NSI instead only required a second permanently installed compass (see our letter ref. DGG/V/VM-02004659 dated 25 June 2002), even when this was a mitigation of the SOLAS requirement.

As from 1 January 2005, the new Netherlands Shipping Order entered into force, which meant that our letter ref. DGG/V/VM-02004659 expired and that SOLAS had to be adhered to. With the subsequent delegation of safety inspections to the Classification Societies, individual exemptions from SOLAS V/19.2.2.1 were issued instead, so that e.g. the gyro compass, required by SOLAS V/19.2.5.1, could still be used for the function of the SMC.

However with the adoption by MSC.82 of MSC/Circ.1224 (IACS UI SC203), NSI can no longer sustain the relaxation of this SOLAS requirement.

Therefore NSI has decided that henceforth all ships under Dutch Flag shall comply with SOLAS V/19.2.2.1, subject to the contents of MSC/Circ.1224. This implies that no longer exemptions can be granted for this requirement, thus resulting in the fact that the gyro compass, required by SOLAS V/19.2.5.1, cannot be used to comply with SOLAS V/19.2.2.1.

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This means in practice that on ships of 150 GT and upwards, but less than 500 GT, the SMC may be a gyro compass. On ships of 500 GT and upwards the SMC may be a second gyro compass.

For clarification, I would like to affirm that already issued exemptions for the spare magnetic compass will remain valid.

I trust to have informed you appropriately.

Yours sincerely,

THE DIRECTOR SHIPPING INSPECTORATE (MARINE AND FISHERY),

P.Th. Gelton