

# Radio Surveyor – Quality Assurance system - Clarification

February 2022

ITN-12-18

## General Purpose

The purpose of this Interim Technical Note (ITN) is to clarify the requirement for radio surveyors to have a quality assurance system.

ITNs provide supporting information on specific technical issues or areas related to maritime rules or marine protection rules. The material in this ITN should not be treated as a substitute for the rules, which are the law. This ITN may be replaced with or clarified by operational guidance or an advisory circular at a later date. Any future guidance is unlikely to apply retrospectively.

## Application

This ITN applies to all radio surveyors covered by Maritime Rules Part 43 and Part 44.

## Background

- Radio surveyors have queried the requirement to have a Quality Assurance system.
- Maritime Rule Part 43 outlines the survey and inspection requirement for a radio surveyor and a radio inspector.

### Maritime Rules Part 43

#### Surveys and inspections

##### 43.6 Radio surveys and inspections

- 1) The owner of every ship to which Section 1 of Part 46<sup>4</sup> applies must ensure that the ship's radio installation is surveyed in accordance with—
  - a. rule 46.5 in respect of a new passenger ship; or
  - b. rule 46.6 in respect of a new non-passenger ship; or
  - c. rule 46.8 in respect of a new non-passenger ship of 300 gross tonnage which undertakes an international voyage; or
  - d. rule 46.9 in respect of an existing passenger or non-passenger ship.

Such surveys must be undertaken by a surveyor who holds a current Certificate of Surveyor recognition that entitles the surveyor to perform that function.

- 2) The owner of every fishing ship which is assigned unlimited area operating limits under Part 20 must ensure that any radio installation fitted in the ship is surveyed by a surveyor who holds a current Certificate of Surveyor recognition that entitles the surveyor to perform that function—
  - (a) when the radio installation is installed; and
  - (b) annually after the radio installation is installed.
  
- 3) A maritime transport operator whose maritime transport operation uses a ship to which Part 19 applies, other than a fishing ship to which rule 43.6(2) applies, must ensure that any radio installation fitted in the ship is inspected by a radio inspector recognised by the Director under rule 43.7—
  - (a) when it is installed; and
  - (b) at 4 yearly intervals after its installation; and
  - (c) at such intermediate periods as may be determined by—
    - (i) the relevant survey plan prepared under rule 19.63.; or
    - (ii) for ships operating under rule 19.81(3), the relevant survey plan under the safe ship management system.

- Maritime Rule Part 44.21(2) outlines some of the requirements for application for Certificate of Surveyor Recognition:

**Maritime Rules Part 44.21(2)**

- 2) The applicant must apply for a Certificate of Surveyor Recognition in accordance with section 35 of the Act and provide the following information, in a form acceptable to the Director:
  - a) the extent and type of surveys that the applicant intends to undertake;
  - b) evidence of holding relevant qualifications, or having relevant training or experience, in survey to the satisfaction of the Director; and
  - c) such further particulars relating to the applicant as may be required by the Director.

- Maritime Rule Part 44.22 outlines requirements for issue of the Certificate of Surveyor Recognition:

**Maritime Rules Part 44.22**

**44.22 Issue of Certificate of Surveyor Recognition**

- (1) The Director must issue a Certificate of Surveyor Recognition if satisfied that the applicant—
  - (a) meets the fit and proper person criteria under section 50 of the Act and the applicable requirements of this Part;
  - (b) is competent and has the technical qualifications and experience to undertake the surveys for which the application is made;
  - (c) has agreed to satisfy, any other conditions imposed on the certificate by the Director under subrule (2);
  - (d) has agreed to conduct every survey—
    - (i) in a manner consistent with any requirements as to the performance of survey as imposed by the Director under this Part;
    - (ii) in a manner consistent with all applicable maritime rules and marine protection rules;
    - (iii) in a manner consistent with industry best practice; and
    - (iv) taking into consideration any relevant guidelines recommended by the Director; and
  - (e) has agreed to exercise reasonable skill, care, competence, and diligence at all times when providing services subject to this Part.

- 2) The Director may issue a Certificate of Surveyor Recognition subject to any conditions that he or she considers necessary and that are relevant to the types of survey the surveyor is authorised to perform.
- 3) A Certificate of Surveyor Recognition must include—
  - (a) the surveyor's name;
  - (b) the date of issue;
  - (c) the date of expiry; and
  - (d) any conditions imposed by the Director under subrule (2) as he or she considers appropriate, including—
    - (i) any limitations on ship attributes, including ship size, material of construction, and scope of certification; and
    - (ii) any limitations on survey type, including design approval, construction approval, equipment approval, and survey plan approval; and
- (4) A Certificate of Surveyor Recognition is a maritime document.

## Clarification

- The requirements for becoming a recognised radio surveyor were previously outlined in Maritime Rule Part 46, section 5. A surveyor was required to have the appropriate technical qualifications and experience as well as being employed within a quality assurance system for the survey of ships, certified by a recognised accreditation body. However this section of the maritime rule was repealed as part of the changes accompanying the transition from the Safe Ship Management system to the Maritime Transport Operator Safety System (MOSS). The requirements for becoming a recognised radio surveyor are now stipulated within Maritime Rule Part 44 and the surveyor recognition framework.
- There is no current requirement within the maritime rule for the surveyors employers to implement a quality assurance system. However, the principles of a quality assurance system should be adhered to, all procedures and forms should be well documented and complete record of all work undertaken, training records, Continuous Professional Development should still be maintained, as this could be subject to audits by Maritime New Zealand.