

Non-magnetic compasses

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Purpose

This document clarifies the use of compasses that are not magnetic for the navigation of ships to which Maritime Rules Parts 45.19 – 45.25 apply as alternatives to the magnetic compasses that are required by these Rules. It has been developed to inform operators and surveyors of those ships.

Background

Relevant legislation

Maritime Rules Parts 45.19 – 45.25

Navigational equipment for all ships to which SOLAS is not applied

These rules set out the requirements for magnetic compasses by ship category and size.

Clarification on non-magnetic compasses

Maritime Rules 45.19 - 45.25 specify a number of circumstances in which magnetic compasses are required for navigating ships to which these rules apply. These rules must be complied with unless an exemption has been granted under section 47 of the Maritime Transport Act 1994.

Exemptions from the requirements for a magnetic compass will be considered on a case by case basis. Two examples of alternative arrangements that will be considered are if a non-magnetic compass is:

- provided with an emergency electrical supply capable of operating the installation to a standard acceptable to a member of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) or another regulatory standardisation body acceptable to Maritime NZ
- able to determine and display the vessel's heading independent of any power supply.

Exemption applications must meet the criteria set out in section 47 of the Maritime Transport Act 1994, and must include how any emergency electrical supply meets the standard acceptable to the member of IACS or another regulatory / standardisation body.