



The Society of Consulting Marine Engineers and Ship Surveyors

An MCA Appointed Certifying Authority

Unit 5, Prospect House, 7 Ocean Way, Southampton SO14 3TJ

Tel: +44 (0)23 8001 6494 Email: sec@scmshq.org

SCMS Guidance Note 001

This Guidance Note is for:

Owners, Managing Agents and operators of vessels with a lifting device or where a lifting device is to be fitted.

Lifting Devices

The purpose of this Guidance Note is to formalise the earlier advice circulated by email in September 2016.

You may be aware of a fatality involving a crane on a fish farm workboat. The subsequent MAIB Report required the MCA to ensure that Certifying Authorities have appropriate procedures in place to deal with new cranes and changes to existing cranes. A copy of the MCA current guidance is attached for your information. For the avoidance of doubt the word “crane” as it appears below applies to any lifting device.

You should be aware that a change/modification to a crane without informing the Certifying Authority will invalidate the Workboat Code certificate and until such times as the Certifying Authority has completed its procedure in respect of a addition/change/modification to a crane the use of the crane is not permitted.

SCMS now requires advance notification of any of the following:

1. Where a crane is to be fitted on a vessel where one does not already exist.
2. Where a crane is being replaced/modified even if it is the same make/model as the existing crane.
3. Where any of the crane support structure and associated fastenings is being altered.
4. Where an existing crane is being relocated/repositioned on the same vessel.
5. Where the crane has sustained damage.

Please contact SCMS HQ by email or telephone as well as your chosen surveyor. On receipt of this advance notification the Certifying Authority will advise what action you need to take but in principle you will need to provide evidence to the Certifying Authority that the crane support structure and stability have been assessed by a competent person BEFORE any works are carried out.

On completion of the works the Certifying Authority will require a copy of the LOLER test certificate confirming that an overload test has been completed and a stability information book to confirm the stability with the crane in use for formal approval. Inspections by one of our authorised persons will also be required during this process.



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Notwithstanding this guidance the installation, modification, testing and safe operation of a lifting device remains the responsibility of the vessel's owner/managing agent.



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

MCA SAFETY ALERT

FAO: All UK Loadline and Loadline exemption vessel owners, Coded boat owners, Certifying Authorities, manufacturers of lifting appliances fitted on vessels and competent persons.

LIFTING EQUIPMENT ON WORKBOATS, UK LOADLINE AND UK LOADLINE EXEMPTION VESSELS

It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that any lifting equipment installed or used on a vessel is properly designed for its intended use, including:

- an assessment of the impact on the vessel's stability, and
- suitable mountings and fixing arrangements taking account of the structure of the vessel and the manufacturer's recommendations.

Once installed, lifting equipment must be tested¹ before first use, and retested

- at five yearly intervals thereafter; and
- after any modification, damage or potential damage.

More frequent testing may be appropriate taking consideration of the marinisation of the crane components. Testing should be carried out by a competent person.

The design, stability assessment and fixing arrangements should be agreed by a competent person, which in this context includes someone with experience of the fitting and operation of lifting equipment on ships/vessels. Particular attention should be paid to the vessel crane mountings to ensure that it complies with the manufacturer's recommendations. A visual inspection should be made by the Certifying Authority (CA) of the fixing arrangements. All such arrangements should be agreed in advance by the CA, and subject to visual inspection in situ.

Any modification to the lifting equipment after installation should be reported to the CA as required under the Code². Where the owner has not notified the CA of any modifications this will affect the validity of their code certification³.

The owner should also ensure that information is supplied with the lifting gear on limitations on use, maintenance and servicing requirements, and identify who is responsible for ensuring these are followed. Regular thorough examination (at least annually) of the structure should be carried out by a competent person, to look for corrosion, damage, or signs of wear which might affect the integrity.

Maintenance should be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instruction manual. Repair and maintenance should only use parts made or recommended by the crane manufacturer.

Seafarer Safety & Health Branch
June 2016

¹ In accordance with the Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment) Regulations 2006 – see also MGN 332(M+F).

² See Merchant Shipping (Survey and Certification) Regulations 2015, Regulation 10; or Section 27.11.5 of Workboat Code Edition 2, Workboat Code Industry Working Group Technical Standard and MGN 280, or Section 27.6.4 of Workboat Code Edition 1

³ See Section 27.13 of Workboat Code Edition 2, Workboat Code Industry Working Group Technical Standard and MGN 280 or Section 27.7 of the Workboat Code Edition 1