



NMSC Media Release

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National vessel survey administration standard realised

The National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC) this week published the National Standard for Administration of Marine Safety (NSAMS) for commercial vessel surveys.

Approved by the Australian Transport Council, **NSAMS Section 4 – Survey of Vessels** will be a key element of the proposed new ‘single national jurisdiction’ approach to maritime safety in Australia.

NMSC’s CEO Ms Margie O’Tarpey noted that achieving a national standard for domestic vessel survey has been particularly challenging as there is currently a range of approaches to surveying between states and territories including how often periodic inspections of different elements of a vessel are carried out and exemptions granted for certain types of vessels.

“Harmonising those differences was always going to be a challenge under the existing state and territory regulatory regime,” Ms O’Tarpey said, “however, the COAG initiative to develop a single national legal framework for maritime safety regulation provided an opportunity for NMSC to work with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to take a fresh look at this question from first principles,” Ms O’Tarpey said.

She explained that this made way for a risk-based approach, drawing upon international practice without being restricted by historical practice.

“In preparing the standard, consideration was given to a number of factors including current vessel designs, practices and materials; relevant national and international standards – and limiting discretionary requirements that rely on approval from an authority”.

The Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for the National Approach to Maritime Safety Reform (NAMSR) in 2009¹ included a proposal for both initial and periodic survey. The new standard amplifies this proposal with added detail.

“The intent is that the NSAMS for survey of vessels will not be applied yet, but will be referenced in law once the single national jurisdiction comes into force around the Year 2013,” Ms O’Tarpey said.

“Having the standard available now will greatly assist in the design of the new delivery models for survey services currently being considered by AMSA and the state and territory authorities”.

To obtain a copy of *NSAMS Section 4 Survey of Vessels* contact the NMSC Secretariat on 02 9247 2124 or visit www.nmsc.gov.au, and click on ‘Standards and Publications/National Standards’.

The NMSC aims to achieve nationally uniform marine safety practices and is made up of an Independent Chair and the CEOs of Australia’s marine safety agencies.

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Media: For further information, contact Communications Officer Rosemary Pryor on (02) 9247 2124.

¹ NAMSR Consultation RIS, Round 2, April 2009