



GUIDANCE NOTICE

Certificate of Survey

A Certificate of Survey provides the evidence that a vessel has been surveyed and meets specified standards for construction stability and safety equipment. A Certificate of Survey is required for all vessels in Scheme S of the National System for Domestic Commercial Vessel Safety. Generally these are:

- Vessels greater than or equal to 7.5 metres in length.
- Vessels operating in A, B or C waters.
- Vessels that carry passengers.

Vessels specified as high risk under the National Standard for the Administration for Marine Safety Section 4 (NSAMS 4).

Issue of a Certificate of Survey

A Certificate of Survey will normally be issued for five years for each Scheme S vessel. Intermediate surveys are required to demonstrate that the vessel continues to meet the standards. Certain sections of the USL Code will apply for a short period until a revised NSCV Part C is approved by Transport Ministers.

What do I need to do under the National System?

What you need to do depends on whether your vessel is:

- a new vessel;
- an existing vessel where you do not change the structure, use and area of operations;
- an existing vessel where you modify the structure, change the use or change the area of operations (eg move to another State/Territory);
- an exempt vessel.

New Scheme S Vessel

For new Scheme S vessels, apply to your local delegate for plan approval, initial and periodic surveys.

Existing Scheme S Vessel with the same structure, use and area of operations

If your existing Scheme S vessel is unmodified and continues operating in the same geographical area after the National System starts, your existing State/Territory Certificate of Survey is “grandfathered” and you do not need to do anything until your certificate is nearing expiry. You will continue to be limited to the same structure and use of your vessel and area of operations permitted under your existing Certificate of Survey.

Prior to expiry you will need to apply for a National System Certificate of Survey from your delegate

Existing Scheme S Vessel with modified structure, changed use or changed area of operations

If you have an existing Certificate of Survey or Registration issued by a State/Territory and you want to modify your vessel, change its use or change its area of operation before it is due to expire, you will need to apply for a National System Certificate of Survey. Check with your local delegate for further information.

Exempt vessels

Under AMSA EX2013/02 the following vessels are exempt from obtaining a Certificate of Survey:

- a vessel being moved for the purpose of obtaining a Certificate; or
- a tender vessel which:
 - is used to transport goods or people between the shore and its parent vessel or between its parent vessel and another vessel; or
 - does not move more than 1 nautical mile from its parent vessel (or another distance determined by the National Regulator).

Note: if the parent vessel is a vessel in survey, it must be inspected with the parent vessel whenever the parent vessel is surveyed.

- an auxiliary vessel which:
 - does not move further than 5 nautical miles from its parent vessel if it does not carry passengers;
 - does not move further than 2 nautical miles from its parent vessel if it does carry passengers;.
 - is less than 7.5 metres in length (or another length determined by the National Regulator);
 - carries up to 12 passengers (or another number determined by the National Regulator);
 - is not powered by a petrol inboard engine.

Note: the vessel must be inspected at intervals identified on the certificate of operation of its parent vessel.

- a Class 2D or 2E, 3D or 3E vessel, less than 7.5m long, does not carry passengers and is not high risk;
- a Class 4D or 4E vessel, less than 7.5m long, does not operate overnight and is not high risk;
- a vessel that is less than 24 metres long and is used only inshore by a sailing school or training organisation to train members of the public for recreational boating qualifications;

Check with your local delegate for further information.

Applying for a Certificate of Survey

To apply for a National System Certificate of Survey you need to:

1. Complete the Application for Certificate of Survey (AMSA form 521) and associated documentation available from your local marine safety agency;
2. Provide the documents required as evidence to support the application;
3. Lodge the application either in person at your local marine safety agency or by mail; and
4. Pay the required fees.

Details of your local delegate are available at www.amsa.gov.au

References

Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012

Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Regulations 2012

Marine order 503 (Certificate of Survey – national law) 2013

AMSA EX2013/02 Marine Safety (Certificates of survey) Exemption 2013