

# South African Maritime Safety Authority



## Marine Notice No. 8 of 2009

### Alterations made to existing ships

TO ALL OWNERS, VESSEL OPERATORS AND MANAGERS, AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

#### *Summary*

This marine notice advises industry of SAMSА's policy regarding alterations to vessels.

1 Regulations 149 (3) and 189 of *Construction Regulations, 1968*, requires that submissions of detailed drawings and proposed modifications be forwarded to the Principal Officer for approval. The prerequisites of Regulation 10 of the *Safety of Navigation Regulations, 1968*, are that stability information and data are accurate and up-to-date. Regulation 4 (1) (c) of the *Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2007*, also requires modifications to be approved by the Authority.

2 The Authority is aware that several fishing vessel owners have proceeded with modifications [to their vessels] without following the proper procedure of notifying the Principal Officer concerned. It is hereby stressed again that it is required by Regulation to obtain prior approval and to submit revised drawings and stability data before going ahead with alterations or modifications. In a court action subsequent to the loss of a trawler, which had been so modified, the owners were clearly in breach of regulatory requirements.

3 To ensure that difficulties in this regard are minimised, the following procedure is adopted by the Authority:-

- (i) Any surveyor who notices modifications in progress will immediately investigate whether plans or drawings have been submitted and prior approval obtained. If it is stated that approval was obtained at another port; this will be verified.
- (ii) Any Principal Officer who has given prior approval for modifications to be made at another port, or to a vessel normally operating from another port; will inform the other Principal Officer concerned in order that the ship's file may be updated.
- (iii) Any surveyor who finds that the prior approval has not in fact been obtained will not complete his report of survey until this has been done and therefore a Local General safety Certificate will not be issued.
- (iv) On completion of modifications the surveyor will endorse the plans and specification that the work has been completed in accordance with the drawings. If it has not been done he will insist on the submission of revised "as fitted" drawings and specifications, a copy of which is to be forwarded to the Principal Officer of the port from where the vessel normally operates, if necessary.

- (v) The surveyor will ensure that the stability data pertains to the vessel in its latest modified condition, except where it is clearly not necessary for the data to be updated. Any updated stability booklet should be endorsed with a description of the changes made, be dated, and should, where necessary, be re-approved by the Authority.

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