



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-40

Rev. Jan/2023

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

SUBJECT: Bridge Navigation Watch Alarm Systems

- References:**
- (a) **SOLAS** *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea*, Consolidated Edition 2020
 - (b) **IMO Resolution** [MSC.128\(75\)](#), *Performance standards for a bridge navigational watch alarm system (BNWAS)*, adopted 20 May 2002
 - (c) **IMO Circular** [MSC.1/Circ.1474](#), *Guidance on the bridge navigational watch alarm system (BNWAS) auto function*, adopted 23 May 2014
 - (d) **RMI Mobile Offshore Unit (MOU) Standards** ([MI-293](#))

PURPOSE

This Notice provides the policy position of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”) on the requirements for Bridge Navigation Watch Alarm Systems (BNWASs).

This Notice supersedes the Rev. Mar/2015. Edits have been made to remove outdated information, including the BNWAS Compliance Table.

APPLICABILITY

This Notice applies to RMI-flagged ships¹ fitted with BNWAS per SOLAS V/19.2.2.3.

1. Self-propelled Mobile Offshore Units are required to be fitted with a BNWAS in accordance with SOLAS Chapter V. Refer to the RMI Mobile Offshore Unit Standards ([MI-293](#)) for these vessel types.

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 General Requirements

- 1.1 As permitted by SOLAS, the Administrator will accept BNWAS installed before 1 July 2011 that do not meet the performance standards contained in IMO Resolution [MSC.128\(75\)](#), upon recommendation from the ship's Recognized Organization (RO) provided that:
- .1 the system is manufactured for marine service;
 - .2 audible alarms or visual indicators are provided in the wheelhouse and on the bridge wings; and
 - .3 second and third stage audible alarms are raised in locations deemed appropriate by the Classification Society of the vessel².
- 1.2 Regardless of when installed, BNWAS, when fitted with motion detectors to serve as the reset function, must meet the following additional requirements:
- .1 The sensors cover only the area of the bridge forward of any bridge curtains;
 - .2 The area of the bridge covered by the motion sensor does not include bridge chairs, unless the chair is integral to the primary conning position, such as in a cockpit style operating position; and
 - .3 Moving bridge curtains will not reset the BNWAS.

2.0 Operational Requirements

- 2.1 In accordance with SOLAS regulation V/19.2.2.3, BNWAS must be in operation when the ship is under way at sea³.
- 2.2 In their Safety Management System (SMS), vessel operators must address the operating situations under which the BNWAS operational modes (automatic, manual ON, manual OFF) should be used. This must take into account that the automatic operational mode must not be used, if available, until the performance standards contained in IMO Resolution [MSC.128\(75\)](#) are revised. See [MSC.1/Circ.1474](#) for additional guidance on the BNWAS auto function.
- 2.3 For systems fitted with motion sensors to serve as one of the reset functions, the SMS must include a procedure for the crew to check the system at least once a day to ensure it is operating correctly.⁴

2. This is an RMI requirement.

3. For the purpose of this Marine Notice, "at sea" means the ship is under way outside of pilotage waters.

4. This is an RMI requirement.

3.0 BNWAS Interface with the Vessel's Voyage Data Recorder

- 3.1 These are the Administrator's requirements for connecting a BNWAS to a Voyage Data Recorder (VDR).
- .1 For a BNWAS installed on or after 1 July 2011:
 - a. If the VDR was installed on or after 1 July 2014, the BNWAS must be connected to it.
 - b. If the VDR was installed before 1 July 2014, the BNWAS should, if practicable, be connected to it.
 - .2 If installed before 1 July 2011, the BNWAS should, if practicable, be connected to the VDR.
- 3.2 On receiving a recommendation from the ship's RO, the Administrator will consider exemptions to these requirements.