

IT PAYS TO BE PREPARED

FOR YOUR NEXT FISHING VESSEL SURVEY

Quick Guide To Survey Preparation



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Quick guide to survey preparation

Preparing and presenting your vessel properly for survey will save you both time and money.

Forward planning and preparation could make the difference between success and failure. This leaflet sets out useful advice to help ensure that your next survey is a successful one.

Applying for Survey

Apply early to your local Marine Office. Your survey can begin up to six months before your existing UK or International Fishing Vessel Certificate expires.

Organise your survey to limit the number of visits the Surveyor has to make. Most surveys can be completed in two visits.

The most efficient order for surveys is an “out of water” survey followed by an “afloat” survey.

Ensure your Marine Consultant conducts stability checks while the Surveyor is conducting the afloat survey as and when applicable. The Surveyor will advise you what tests are required.

Ensure you book your Radio Survey (see page 23)



Survey Check List

Out of Water Survey

What is the surveyor looking for?

Following the guidelines below will cut down the time the surveyor spends on board and any need for re-visits:

- Pressure wash the hull (but do not repaint until after the survey).
- For steel vessels; carry out ultra sonic tests on the total hull area and suspect areas when the Surveyor is present.
- Remove and clean sea valves, both inlets and overboard.
- Check Draft Marks.
- Record propeller shaft clearances, by lifting the shaft and using a clock gauge or feeler gauges. The surveyor will then advise if withdrawal or renewal of the shaft is required.

- Check Condition of the propeller hub and also blades and operation if Controlled Pitch Propeller.
- Record the Rudder Pintle bearing clearances.
- Provide/arrange safe access to vessel including external hull areas.
- For wooden vessels; have a shipwright available at survey time, the Surveyor can then discuss any action with him.
- For wooden vessels; fastenings will be withdrawn at the discretion of the Surveyor.



A man in a dark jacket and red scarf is looking at a tablet on a ship's deck. The background shows a blue sky and parts of the ship's structure.

On Board Survey

What is the Surveyor looking for?

The Surveyor will examine in detail the following eight areas whilst onboard your vessel:

1. Wheelhouse
2. Wheelhouse top / Casing top / Shelter top
3. Accommodation
4. Main Deck
5. Fish Room
6. Engine Room

What is the Surveyor looking for? continued

7. Equipment Tests

8. Vessel Operations and Drills

These are dealt with in more detail below and carrying out your own checks in advance can identify problems you can rectify beforehand.



1. Wheelhouse Equipment

Where applicable, check the following is in good working order, properly maintained and serviced and meets with the requirements of any relevant legislation or Codes of Practice, Merchant Shipping Notices and Marine Guidance Notices. Also ensure records are available for inspection where these are required.

- Aldis / signalling lamp
- Bell
- Bilge alarms
- Certificate of Registry
- Correct Charts and up to date Publications
- Compass deviation card
- Crew qualification / Safety training certificates
- Echo sounders
- Engine maintenance documents
- Fire detection systems
(do they also work on shore power)
- Flares
- Gas detector system
- General alarm / Fire alarm / CO2 alarm

Wheelhouse Equipment continued

- Liferaft, fire equipment and medicine chest certificates
- Line throwers
- Log book / crew agreement
- Navigation lights and shapes
- Radar's
- Radio Equipment – ensure is in good order and book Radio Survey as appropriate see details on page 23.
- Seafish Risk Assessment folder
- Stability book
- UKFVC/IFVC displayed
- Whistle

2. Wheelhouse top / Casing top / Shelter top

Where applicable, check the following is in good working order, properly maintained and serviced and meets with the requirements of any relevant legislation or Codes of Practice, Merchant Shipping Notices and Marine Guidance Notices. Also ensure records are available for inspection where these are required.

- EPIRB and HRUs
- Escape hatches and clips
- Lifebuoys
- Liferafts, HRUs and release arrangements
- Provide/arrange safe access to vessel
- Rescue boats and launching device (if fitted)
- Shelter access hatches and clips
- Signs marking escape ways



Wheelhouse top / Casing top / Shelter top

continued

- Smoke / light floats
- Ventilator flaps and closures
- Watertight door clips

External Casing Areas

- **Watertight doors** must seal properly when closed.
- **Clips** must operate freely and rubber seals must be in good condition.
- **Hold back clips** must be removed and a notice exhibited on both sides of the door stating *“Door to be kept closed at sea”*.
- **Ventilator flaps and closing devices** must operate freely.
- **Indication** must show open and closed positions of ventilation flaps.
- **Airpipes from fuel tanks** must be fitted with a flash back gauze and a satisfactory closing device.
- **Airpipes and sounding pipes** should be marked to indicate what tanks they serve and sounding pipe caps should be attached to the sounding pipe with a short chain.

3. Accommodation Areas

- **Lifejacket condition:** check the battery expiry on light, reflective tape is in good condition and straps and stitching are sound, there should be no signs of dampness or rotting fabric.
- **Lifejacket storage:** store in a place that is readily accessible in an emergency.
- **Lifejacket donning instructions:** clearly display.
- **Medicine chest:** check it is intact, serviced and in date.
- **Bunk lights:** should be fitted with covers.
- **Fire extinguishers:** should be serviced and in date.
- **Heaters:** ensure they are away from combustible material.



Accommodation Areas continued

- **Ventilation and Fire Dampers:** including the external ventilation flaps, are these in good working order.
- **Fire alarms:** do they sound in accommodation and sleeping cabins, and are smoke detectors fitted.
- **Gas and Carbon Monoxide detectors:** are these fitted.
- **Cabin Escape:** should have clear access, signs in place and emergency light/s fitted and working. Are there two means of escape to the deck. If one escape is blocked by fire is the alternative available.
- **Doors and Hatches:** these must be easily opened, from both sides, for emergencies.
- **Electrical Appliances:** are they safe and have the correct wiring fuses.
- **Is shore power reliable:** it should be safety installed with appropriate circuit breakers and be sufficient for the necessary services working together, for safety as well as domestic purposes.
- **Failure of shore power:** ensure the crew know what to do.

Accommodation Areas continued

- **Change over to ship power:** ensure live aboard crew can change over to ship power from shore power.

Galley / Mess Room

- **Port holes / windows:** securing clips and deadlights should all be free and for external windows blanks should be available for use if windows are broken.
- **Fire hazards:** tea towels, etc, should not hang over galley stove.
- **Doors:** self closing device should not be disabled.
- **Electric stove / fryers / ventilation or extractor fan:** switches to isolate this equipment should be fitted outside the galley / messroom.
- **LPG detection/shut down alarm:** system should operate satisfactorily.
- **Fixed Fire Extinguishing System:** for galley vent system, if fitted, and any grills, cleaned of grease.

Accommodation Areas continued

Accommodation and Galley / Mess Room Areas

- **Doors:** must be fitted with self closing devices free from hindrance. This type of door would be situated at the galley, engine room entrances and any stairways fitted with structural protection. Unapproved hook backs must not be used, only electromagnetic hold backs linked to the fire detection system are acceptable.
- **Wooden or steel blanks:** must be available for at least two windows in the wheelhouse and accommodation.
- **Hygiene:** in all areas must be of an acceptable standard.
- **Heaters:** are they safe, have they been serviced and comply with MGN 312 (Use of LPG and Diesel Fuelled Appliances on Fishing Vessels)".

4. Main Deck Areas

- **Freeing ports:** should pivot freely and shutter types should be fitted with retaining chains.
- **Rails and bulwarks:** complete with any extension wires, should be in place and in working order.
- **Hatch clips:** should be free and seals in good condition.
- **Open decks:** should have lifelines or points for attachment of safety harnesses.
- **Any 'trip' hazards:** which would cause personal injury should be removed or clearly marked.
- **Anchors and cable:** should be ready for rapid deployment.
- **All store rooms:** should be cleaned out so the internal hull and decks can be surveyed.
- **Lifting and Working Equipment:** should be properly installed in accordance with manufacturers instructions and inspected and examined in accordance with The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Provision and Use of Work Equipment) Regulations 2006 No. 2183 and MGN 331 and The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment) Regulations 2006 No. 2184 and MGN 332. Records should be available for inspection.

5. Fish Room

- **Access ladder:** should be available and ladder fitted with hooks at top to secure it when in use.
- **Light fittings:** should be in good working order.
- **Refrigeration coils:** should be in good order and securely fastened to deckhead.
- **Bilge strums:** should be clean and clear of any obstructions.
- **Bilge suction pipes:** check condition.
- **Bilge alarm sensors:** should be in good order.
- **Ice scuttles:** should be in place and fitted with retaining chains.

The surveyor may require access to spaces behind the fish room lining to examine the internal hull structure.



6. Engine Room

The area should be clean and tidy and particular attention taken to check the following:-

- **Seawater pipework:** should be in good condition.
- **Seawater inlet valves:** should be easily and readily accessible and operable from above floor plate level.
- **Savealls:** should be fitted where required.
- **Appropriate signs:** should be displayed prohibiting discharge of oil overside and indicating high noise level.
- **Flexible hydraulic hoses:** should not be too long and properly clipped.
- **No leaks:** of fuel or hydraulic oil to be present.
- **Self closing valves:** should be fitted to water drains and gauge glasses on fuel tanks.
- **CO₂ warning signs:** displayed as appropriate.
- **CO₂ alarms:** should be fitted and operational.
- **CO₂ fixed system:** should be regularly serviced, check nozzles clear.

Engine Room continued

- **Rotating machinery and hot areas, such as exhaust manifolds:** should be properly guarded.
- **Main and auxiliary diesel engines:** should be in good order.
- **Bilges:** should be cleaned to allow access to seawater pipes/bulkheads, etc.
- **Bilge systems:** should be clear of obstructions.
- **Bilge alarm:** sensors should be in good order.
- **Bilge pumps:** should be in good order.
- **Fire Dectectors:** check condition.
- **Water Spray Systems:** if fitted, check condition and nozzles clear.
- **Batteries:** check condition, terminals, no cables able to short circuit together.



7. Equipment Tests

Tests may include, but not be limited to:

- **Main and emergency fire pumps** (afloat survey).
- **Main and emergency bilge pumps** including full function test from all spaces (afloat survey).
- **Remote closures** for oil fuel and hydraulic oil tanks.
- **Remote shut off switches** for ventilation fans and oil transfer pumps.
- **Emergency lighting** including liferaft embarkation areas.
- **Man overboard retrieval systems** (afloat survey).
- **Boarding ladders.**
- **Fire detection system.**
- **Rescue Boat** (if provided) launch and operation (afloat survey).
- **Main and emergency steering gear.**
- **Changeover from main to emergency power** (afloat survey).
- **CO₂ and LPG alarms.**
- **Auxiliary Engines.**

8. Vessel Operations and Drills

- The crew members must be able to satisfy the Surveyor as to their familiarity with vessel emergency procedure and equipment.
- A muster list and emergency stations list should be displayed where applicable.
- Drills demonstrating familiarity with the equipment should be carried out at frequent intervals and all drills should be recorded in the appropriate log book.

Drills will need to be witnessed by MCA as part of the renewal survey, intermediate survey or mid term inspection.





Other Information

Fishing Gear

Apart from testing any remote winch stops, none of this equipment comes into the UKFVC/IFVC survey. However, owners are advised to be aware that this equipment should be inspected and/or tested by a competent person as set out in the relevant MGN.

Afloat Survey

- Lightship check, inclining or roll test.
- Consultants to be involved in stability assessment as advised by Surveyor.
- Any vessel modifications to be advised to the Surveyor before they are carried out. It is strongly recommended to discuss modifications and their consequences with a Consultant before commencing.

Main Legislation

(This list is not exhaustive and legislation may be superseded. Current legislation applicable is available from www.mcga.gov.uk)

(SI = Statutory Instrument)

- ❖ MSN 1770 Code of Safe Working Practice for the Construction and Use of Fishing Vessels of 15m Length Overall to less than 24m Registered Length.
- ❖ Fishing Vessels (EC Directive on Harmonised Safety Regime) Regulations 1999, No. 2998 (as amended by 2003, No.1112) which implements the Torremolinos Protocol (24m Registered Length and over).
- ❖ The Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975, No.330 (where applicable to pre 1 January 1999 built vessels of 15m Length Overall and over).
- ❖ The Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) (Fishing Vessels) Regulations 1975, No. 2220 as amended by SI 1998, No. 929 and SI 2002, No 2201.
- ❖ The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Personal Protective Equipment) Regulations 1999 No. 2205 and MGN 311.
- ❖ Discharge of oil. The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Regulations 1996, No. 2154.

- Garbage and waste disposal. The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) Regulations 1998, No. 1377.
- Certificates of Competency. The Fishing Vessels (Certification of Deck Officers and Engineer Officers) Regulations 1984, No 1115.
- Certificates of Equivalent Competency if applicable. – MGN 220 Training and Certification Guidance - Part 20 Certificates of Equivalent Competency for Fishing Vessels.
- Fishing Vessels (Safety Training) Regulations 1989, as amended by SI 2004, No. 2169.
- The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Provision and Use of Work Equipment) Regulations 2006 No. 2183 and MGN 331.
- The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment) Regulations 2006 No. 2184 and MGN 332.
- The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) Regulations 1997, No. 2962 as amended by SI 1998, No 2411 and SI 2001, No. 54.
- MGN 337 - Provision of Safe Means of Access to Fishing and other small vessels.
- The Merchant Shipping (Radio) (Fishing Vessels) Regulations 1999, No 3210.
- A radio survey by an authorised radio surveyor must be carried out before the UKFVC/IFVC can be issued. See approved list of authorised radio surveyors on MCA website.

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