



GUIDANCE NOTICE

Load Line Certificate

Marine Order 507 (Load line certificates – national law) 2013

All ships, other than fishing vessels, which are over 24 meters in length must obtain a load line certificate.¹

An application must be made to the National Regulator. The application is the same as an Application for a Certificate of Survey (AMSA form 521).

A Load Line Certificate is usually issued for 5 years, or as otherwise stipulated on the certificate.

How to apply

An application for a Load Line Certificate must be made to your local marine safety agency using the Application for a Certificate of Survey (AMSA form 521). A fee may be charged.

Conditions for issue

A Load Line Certificate will only be issued if the National Regulator is satisfied that the below conditions have been met by the Applicant:

1. Any fees have been paid.
2. The vessel complies with the following parts of section 7 of the USL Code in relation to weathertight and watertight integrity and the marking of load lines and associated marks:
 - a. 2: Conditions of Assignment;
 - b. 3: Structural Strength and Stability of Vessels;
 - c. 4: Initial Survey;
 - d. 5: Calculations and Assignment of Freeboards;
 - e. 6: Marking of Load Lines associated marks; and
 - f. 7: Periodical Surveys and Inspections.
3. The vessel has been inspected for compliance with the requirements mentioned in (2).

4. The National Regulator is satisfied that the vessel complies with the requirements mentioned in (2).
5. An inspection mentioned in paragraph 3 must be carried out each time a periodic survey inspection is carried out in accordance with NSAMS 4.
6. The National Regulator may make the issue of the certificate subject to further conditions as detailed in *Marine Order 507 (Load line certificates – national law) 2013*.

Application for variation, suspension or revocation

Any application for variation, suspension or revocation of a load line certificate must be made by the owner of the vessel using the approved form; Notification of a Change to a Certificate (AMSA form 539)

Variation

The National Regulator must vary a load line certificate on application if:

- (a) information on the load line certificate is no longer correct; or
 - (b) the vessel has been modified, sold or damaged.
- The National Regulator must vary a load line certificate on the National Regulator's own initiative if:
- (a) the National Regulator becomes aware that a vessel to which the certificate applies has been significantly altered, damaged or sold; or
 - (b) the National Regulator considers that any of the information mentioned in the certificate is no longer accurate.

¹ This is with the exception of vessels operating solely on the basis of the maximum number of passengers permitted to be carried being a smooth water vessel or partially smooth water vessel.

Suspension

The National Regulator must suspend a load line certificate on application if the owner of the vessel applies in the approved form for suspension of the load line certificate.

The National Regulator must suspend a load line certificate on the National Regulator's own initiative if the National Regulator is satisfied that the suspension is necessary for any of the following purposes:

- (a) ensuring unpaid fees are recovered;
- (b) ensuring necessary repairs are made to a vessel;
- (c) the National Regulator considers it to be necessary in the interest of marine safety or protecting the environment.

Offences

Offences are detailed in Division 4 of Marine Order 507 (Load line certificates – national law) 2013.