New MED Directive - implemented changes

The new Directive 2014/90/EU on marine equipment (MED) of 3 July 2014 came into force on 18 September 2016 and repealed the Directive 96/98/EC on that date.

Below we present the most important information about changes introduced by the new directive.

1. Validity of existing certificates

Existing EC type examination certificates (module B) and EC certificates of conformity (module G) issued under the Directive 96/98/EC will remain valid until:

- their expiry date, or
- the conditions of the certificate's validity are breached, or
- changes to product requirements and/or its testing specification are changed, or
- product no longer complies with the original type which EC certificate of conformity was issued for.

Existing EC quality system certificates (modules D and E) issued under the previous directive 96/98/EC will remain valid until their expiry dates.

Recertification of above mentioned certificates will be carried out according to the requirements of the new MED directive.

2. Change of requirements concerning product

Previous Annex A.1 of the Directive (EU) 2015/559, defining which equipment the MED directive applies to and what requirements should it meet, has been replaced by the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/306 of 6 February 2017. The new act also indicates dates from which the requirements and testing standards are to be binding, including the dates for placing on the market and the final dates for placing on board, taking into account timeframes for shipbuilding.

This requirement will be updated periodically.

3. Manufacturer's authorised representative

A manufacturer who is not having production located in the EU shall, by a written mandate, appoint an authorised representative for the EU indicating the name of the authorised representative and its contact address.

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PLN: CITIPLPX; PL73 1030 1117 0000 0000 0830 0201
EUR: BIGBPLPW; PL20 1160 2202 0000 0003 1549 9928
USD: BIGBPLPW; PL86 1160 2202 0000 0003 1550 0777
GBP: BIGBPLPW; PL63 1160 2202 0000 0003 1550 1385

4. Other new/modified requirements

The manufacturer shall make an adequate analysis and assessment of the risk(s). Since one of the objectives of the MED directive is to uniform application of the relevant international requirements, in most circumstances the applicable standards referred to in the MED directive cover such risk(s). However, if not, the analysis and assessment of the risk(s) should be carried out, addressing further requirements. Such analysis shall be attached to the application and will be considered in the conformity assessment.

The manufacturer shall deliver a copy of the EU declaration of conformity to the notified body.

The manufacturer shall keep technical documentation and the declaration of conformity for at least 10 years after the “wheel mark” has been affixed on the last product manufactured and in no case for a period shorter than the expected life of the certified marine equipment.

In case of changes in design of the marine equipment and/or changes in the international requirements the notified body shall judge if a new conformity assessment is necessary.

The mark of conformity shall be followed by the notified body identification number and the full marking of the year in which the mark is affixed (e.g. 1463/2016).

Furthermore, manufacturers shall ensure that their products bear a type, batch or a serial number or other element enabling identification of a trade name or registered trademark and the address at which they can be contacted on the product.

In the new MED directive a concept of an electronic tag to supplement or substitute in the future the “wheel mark” has been introduced. Exactly how it might be implemented is yet to be determined.

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