Sjøfartsdirektoratet
Norwegian Maritime Authority

Circular - Series R

Circular Series R (Regulations) supersedes previous Series F. In the new Series R, relevant legal amendments and amendments to conventions are also published.

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Supersedes:

Reference to: Regulations for the tonnage measurement of ships and mobile offshore units

The Circular should be entered into a special diagram or as appropriate in the latest editions of relevant NMA publications and kept until the next editions.

Regulation concerning amendments to the Regulations on the tonnage measurement of ships and mobile offshore units

The Norwegian Maritime Authority (NMA) has laid down amendments to the Regulations of 30 June 2015 No. 823 on the tonnage measurement of ships and mobile offshore units.

The proposal was circulated for review in the period from 11 November 2021 to 21 February 2022. A total of nine consultative statements were received, whereof three included comments to the proposal.

Entry into force

These amendments enter into force on 1 July 2022.

Background for the amendments

The overall length, also referred to as length overall (LOA), has been used as a parameter in the legislation.

The existing Regulations on the tonnage measurement of ships and mobile offshore units section 2 on overall length set out that the overall length is measured from the outboard side of the foremost part of the hull to the outboard side of the aftermost part of the hull. After the acquittal in the criminal case in Hålogaland Court of Appeal (case no. 20209978AST-HALO), administrative procedures and surveys demonstrated a need to specify in more detail which parts of the vessel that are included in the term “hull”.

In Circular RSV 6-2018, the NMA describes how overall length should be measured.

By clarifying the term “hull” and lifting parts of the content of RSV 6-2018 to the Regulations on the tonnage measurement of ships and mobile offshore units, the NMA has chosen to act on the signals of the verdict from Hålogaland Court of Appeal.

The regulatory amendments align with current practice outlined in the Circular, and therefore has no changed financial or administrative costs for the authorities or the industry. The guidance in RSV 6-2018 on the measurement of ship's overall length will be amended accordingly when the amendments enter into force.

The NMA has amended section 2 of the proposal linguistically before implementation. The amendments are intended to be editorial and do not entail any material changes compared to the wording of the circulated proposal.

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Changes to scope of application and other amendments

Regulations on the tonnage measurement of ships and mobile offshore units previously applied to vessels of 15 metres or more in overall length. The scope of application of section 1 is now expanded to include vessels of less than 15 metres in overall length. The wording of sections 3 to 5 is changed in line with the new scope of application. In reality, there are no changed requirements in the amendments of sections 3 to 5 since the scope of application for the provisions remains the same.

The NMA has also discovered that a formula in Regulation 4 paragraph 1 (c) of Annex 1 of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, as included in the Norwegian version of the Regulations, has been inaccurately translated with a letter omitted from the formula. The existing formula is $K_2 = 0,2 + 0,02 \log10 V$, while the correct formula is $K_2 = 0,2 + 0,02 \log10 Vc$. The NMA is taking the opportunity to rectify the formula.

In the opinion of the NMA, these amendments have no financial or administrative consequences for the authorities or the industry.

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