



The Bahamas Maritime Authority

BMA INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 04

ACCIDENT REPORTING

Guidance and Instructions for Ship-owners, Managers, Masters, Bahamas Recognised Organisations and Bahamas Approved Nautical Inspectors

1. Introduction

It is a requirement of the Bahamas Merchant Shipping Act that if a Bahamian-registered vessel is involved in an accident involving serious injury; loss of life; or damage to the ship, property or the environment the owner or manager must report the accident to the Bahamas Maritime Authority.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. One of the main purposes of accident investigation is to learn lessons for the future, and any accident which goes unreported represents a lost opportunity to improve safety. While the majority of owners are scrupulous in observing this requirement, there have been instances when accidents have not been reported to the Authority.
- 2.2. This can cause embarrassment - and potential problems to the shipowner - if we receive enquiries from the press or other flag states about an accident which the BMA was not aware of.
- 2.3. If your ship is unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident please ensure that the Authority is notified immediately. Prompt action greatly reduces inconvenience to the ship involved.

3. Reporting

- 3.1. During office hours the Authority's casualty investigation section should be informed by telephone.
- 3.2. Outside office hours¹ the Emergency Response Officer may be contacted in serious cases.
- 3.3. In either situation the casualty report form CRF1 must be submitted as soon as practicable by fax or email.

4. Contact Details

BMA Casualty Investigation section:

Telephone: +44 20 7562 1300/1328

Fax: +44 20 7614 0666

Email: casualty@bahamasmaritime.com

Emergency Response Officer (London):

Telephone: +44 7977 471 220

Email: tech@bahamasmaritime.com

¹ see BMA Information Bulletin No. 2